

Trip Report

Hofstra University Symposium, Hempstead New York
From Dependency to Freedom, Charting the Future of the Marshall Islands
October 3, 1997

Prepared by R. Thomas Bell
October 6, 1997

Significant Attendees:

Hofstra University President, James Stuart
Foreign Minister Phillip Muller
Ambassador Joan Plaisted, American Ambassador in Majuro, Marshall Islands
Ambassador Laurence Edwards, RMI Ambassador to the United Nations
Ambassador Banny de Brum, RMI Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Mr. Michael Gilsgrow representing Ambassador Tono Eitel, German Ambassador to the U.N..
Mr. Patrick Mahoney, Symposium Director

Attendees Present: 30 participants

Organizations Represented/Speakers:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
RMI Embassy, Washington, D.C.
RMI Embassy to UN
German Embassy to the UN
U.S. Department of State
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Department of Defense
College of the Marshall Islands
Brookhaven National Laboratory (Dr. Vaswani)
University of New England, Australia
The Australian National University
Office of the President, University of Hawaii
John Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii
Brigham Young University-Hawaii
University of Wisconsin
Lincoln Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Montana State University, Bozeman
Microstate Corporation

General Impressions of the Symposium:

The Symposium was organized with much input and help from Foreign Minister Phillip Muller and the RMI Permanent Mission to the United Nations, the office of Ambassador Laurence Edwards, that supports RMI interface at the United Nations. Patrick Mahoney was the Symposium Director and as an alumnae of Hofstra University, (1986) he spearheaded the idea, convinced Hofstra University President James Shuart of its importance to ongoing efforts of Hofstra University to sponsor these kind of seminars. Pat Mahoney is employed currently at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory. High level staff at the University, including a friend and mentor of Pat's, Dr. Alexej Uringinsky, made the funding, time, and facilities available for the event.

A reception the evening before the Symposium gave all attendees the opportunity to meet top level personnel at Hofstra University such as the Dean of the Library, the Dean of Education. This was an excellent opportunity to meet Symposium attendees and get to know them better. The Marshallese delegation to the Symposium were detained at meetings at the United Nations and missed the opportunity to participate in the reception.

The Symposium was obviously an effort to highlight the needs of RMI and explore options for the future that might assist in dealing with RMI's needs, concerns, and hopefully economic growth in the coming century. The intent was to draw on members of academia, industry, and government to collectively explore what can be done to brighten the future of the RMI.

My presentation on our future directions in DOE Programs went over well and several came up and expressed their interest in the new things we are doing and planning. Ambassador Laurence Edwards wife, Neijon Laurence, who also presented on the emerging role of women in RMI, was particularly interested in our DOE initiatives. As I had hoped, the Symposium gave me the opportunity to get to know Ambassador Edwards, his wife and his staff as a plus for our face to face efforts.

Minister Muller would have liked me to say that our recent Request for Application process was all his doing, or at least strongly prompted by his insistence for change. I had sold it during the presentation as a joint action that grew out of our January meetings in Majuro as a means to address RMI and Rongelap and Utirik concerns about the DOE Marshall Islands Medical Program.

I spoke with Minister Phillip Muller about the Villigren Switzerland NEA Conference in January. I was surprised to find he had not heard about it. He seemed most interested in RMI's participation and indicated he might be able to arrange UN funding to have an RMI representative attend and present. Ambassador Banny de Brum is going to Majuro this week and after I discussed the NEA Conference with him privately, he said he would follow-up with Minister Muller and get back to us. I have advised Rick Jones of this development.

Significant statements by some of the Speakers:

Ambassador Joan Plaisted:

USG has spent about \$1B dollars in support of RMI. Under the Compact the U.S. has accepted full responsibility for the health and environmental damages caused by the U.S., nuclear testing program. As part of U.S. responsibility, the U.S. has provided over half a billion dollars in compensation.

RMI is one of America's closest friends. More is spent per capita in the Marshall Islands (about \$1000 to \$2000 per person) than anywhere else in the world, even Israel.

Micronesian Islanders, including Marshallese, have proven to be great adapters to change.

Some say RMI can never achieve any degree of self-sufficiency. The U.S. does not agree with these naysayers. There are positive things to report - Asian Development Bank is helping to implement public sector reform and will later shift to private sector reform. Belt tightening is underway to reduce the number of public sector employees. Some costly government subsidies have been eliminated or reduced. A realistic shore-based fisheries industry policy is nearing the implementation phase. A tuna loining facility may begin operations in the spring of 1998 and a new drydock facility is already in operation.

The Compact defines the present relationship between the U.S. and RMI, and guarantees reciprocal privileges, such as those in immigration and official representation. The Compact has three goals, autonomy of RMI, security of both RMI and U.S., and a mechanism to assist RMI to reach its goal of economic self-sufficiency for its people.

The U.S. is emphasizing trade and private investment, rather than aid as an engine to economic growth. Secretary Albright has noted that the question is not one of trade versus aid, but rather the right kind of aid for trade. RMI has advantages (1) it uses the U.S. dollar, (2) it has a good location in its proximity of Hawaii, (3) the people have the right under the Compact to live, work, and study in the United States. RMI needs to play to its advantages.

The U.S. could complement Marshallese economic reform by: helping develop markets for Marshallese exports; providing economic assistance targeted more toward stimulating private sector investment; and supplying the technical expertise to help the Marshallese gain both foreign and local investor confidence.

Foreign Minister Phillip Muller:

Decolonization for RMI has lead to independent sovereignty and self-government. The foremost elements that define the evolution of the RMI were (1) high and lofty expectations and goals during the Trusteeship (a time when everything was free); (2) the Compact that was to give economic self sufficiency and (3) fundamental personal change.

Irreparable damage, however, was inflicted on the countries health and environment by the U.S. nuclear testing era. The U.S. has not been able to resolve these concerns satisfactorily. There has been a broken trust.

The struggle for independence has required a determined brand of leadership. RMI appreciates what the U.S. (the RMI's American friends) have done. It has been done in warm and sincere friendship. RMI extends its profound gratitude for this.

RMI is proud to say it has had 18 years of uninterrupted democracy. But RMI needs to know what it wants before it knows where to go.

RMI has established an educational system to encourage its youth to play a role in their future.

They, however, have a health system which caters to the rich. There is a need for establishing a viable hospital center, for the training of health care personnel, for committed manpower to make a difference.

RMI is embarking on the use of solar power for the outer islands but this will cost a lot of money.

RMI is attempting to strengthening its economic base and is exploring a variety of opportunities.

RMI has instituted tough measures on: government reform; helping the private sector play a greater role; downsizing the public sector; and privatizing things to the private sector.

Favorable business sharing is happening in the areas of fisheries, transportation, and tourism.

It is hard to prioritize needs when all needs are urgent and need funding to alleviate ills that exist.

The Compact has been of immense importance to RMI. But there is a element of mutual dependency on each other as we move to the next millennium - these will have mutually beneficial aspects.

There are two parts to this: economic assistance and payment to land owners for the damage nuclear testing has done to their land. The Nuclear Claims tribunal needs adequate funding to cover personnel claims and to allow for the clean-up of the atolls.

There is a misconception, however, of the Compact. It is not direct aid to RMI. RMI doesn't see it that way. There are costs and benefits for both sides growing out of the funds expended under the Compact.

The U.S. and the RMI must look together as partners to the future and the new roles we jointly must play. RMI is of course interested in this continuing good relations with the U.S. There are mutual benefits. We must examine what has worked and what has not worked.

RMI needs to pursue funding for education and health care.

The U.S. and RMI must continue to find ways to continually improve working relationships with USAKA. There needs to be more training and upward mobility opportunities. Local companies need to be allowed to play a greater role in the ongoing business at Kwajalein.

If the lease is extended for another 15 years at Kwajalein, the U.S. needs to develop a more fair payment scheme for local Marshallese labor and to do things to help the problems at Ebeye.

USAKA has spare water and electricity that is badly needed at Ebeye.

The U.S. also needs to address the possible addition of Ailuk, Likiep and Wotho as other populations that deserve to be part of the populations that are covered by special health care programs and environmental monitoring and remediation efforts.

Ambassador Laurence Edwards:

The South Pacific Forum has been an effective way for the Pacific Rim nations to voice their concerns and needs. By speaking with one voice, efforts at the UN have led to positive actions on banning nuclear testing, developing the fisheries industry and dealing with issues of global warming which has the potential to strongly effect the Pacific rim nations.

The RMI's vote in the UN is most important to RMI. As a sovereign nation, it has one vote just like all other countries.

This year there is a great challenge for change. The Secretary General has put forth a paper on the future that sets the stage for the future.

RMI can help to come up with compromise positions that can have a positive impact. But budget cuts can pare down UN support and therefore, RMI could be adversely affected.

Ambassador Banny de Brum:

There is no doubt that the U.S. has been generous. The Trusteeship, however, took away RMI's independence. RMI has inherited an educational and health care system developed on a U.S. model - not one that RMI would have chosen.

Now at a time when we are being given control, the Compact funding is not enough to reshape these systems.

The \$1B paid to RMI is a payment to fulfill the U.S. moral obligation based on the impact of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. It is not aid. Shouldn't the U.S. and the RMI be talking about mutual dependence and mutual interest.

In Article 4 of the Mutual Security Agreement of Denial, the U.S. and RMI recognized the substantial economic advantage there is to mutual sustainability and security. The Marshallese supported U.S. troops to help end Japanese occupation. They agreed to allow nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands being told it was for the good of mankind. We hope the U.S. will be willing to consider the full range of what the definition of radiogenic disease means and partner with RMI to ensure that those harmed are properly cared for. It is not only the Bravo shot that rained contamination down on the Marshallese people.

As reported by Ambassador de Brum, Dr. Neil Palafox has pointed out to the U.S. Congress at the recent hearings that there is a six-fold increase of thyroid cancer in the Marshall Islands over that in other parts of the world, a five-fold increase of breast cancer and a thirty-fold increase of liver cancer. There is a very high cancer mortality rate in the Marshall Islands.

There are health consequences of internal ingestion and inhalation of radionuclides which have yet to be evaluated. The study on the health effects of the Rongelap and Utirik exposed are clouded by a comparison population who were also exposed.

As partners and friends, RMI looks forward to working with the U.S. to address this personal injury damage experience.

RMI is grateful that the U.S. will consider the RMI's case for changed circumstances.

RMI is proud to host the Army at Kwajalein. This U.S. security base facilitates mutual security and prevents intrusion by any foreign military.

RMI greatly appreciates its relationship with the U.S.

General Impressions from one other speaker:

Christine McMurray of the Australian National University

The Australian National University sponsored an interview study of Marshallese men and women. Local Marshallese conducted the interview and passed along the reported questions and answers. It was interesting to note that these individuals acknowledged that lifestyle and diet can and do play a part in their diseases such as lung cancer, diabetes, coronary heart disease, liver disease etc. They seemed to acknowledge that unhealthy diets, excess body fat, lack of exercise, too much alcohol, and tobacco smoking were probable causes for some of their illnesses. What was also interesting is that even though they realize that changing their diet could help, they do not have the money necessary to buy the right kinds of food or the space to exercise and live a healthier lifestyle. Exercise is also not considered to be culturally correct since none of their leaders provide the example or the encouragement needed.

Some acknowledged that it would be hard, if not impossible, to give up rice, corned beef, tea and sugar and go back to existing on breadfruit, fish and coconut water.

Fatty foods, salt and sweet foods were identified as some of the culprits.

Christine McMurray identified possible factors for all of this. There is the element of stress. 67% live in crowded urban areas and 50% have a lack of safe drinking water. 11,200 persons are crowded into 1.5 square miles in Majuro and 8000 in less than 0.4 square mile at Ebeye.

There is 13% unemployment among adult men and 70% unemployment among young people.

Enough money or the lack thereof makes it impossible to buy healthy and nutritious foods.

There is a high suicide rate as a result of all this. Individuals reason, well I am doomed by the horrible effects of radiation anyway.

Possible solutions offered by Christine are: need to motivate people with good reasons to change and to give them much support; need to promote gradual change rather than trying to switch all at once; need to promote participation of the whole community; and need a top-down approach. Youth to youth can provide some of this education but adult to adult interaction is needed to really get the change.

Real starvation and emaciation was reported to exist at Enewetak even though the U.S. food program provides foods. Help is needed to find out why children are not eating or are not being fed a balanced or sufficient healthy diet.

Handouts available from the Symposium:

Hofstra University Prepared Packet on the Symposium A packet was provided to each participant that included:

- o message from the Symposium Director
- o an acknowledgements page that gave credit to all those who helped plan the Symposium
- o a biography of each of the Symposium Hosts
- o a short synopsis of each presenters paper along with a short biography

An October 3, 1997, letter from Congressman George Miller Congressman Miller offered support for the RMI Symposium and pledged Congressional support to make sure that both the United States and the Marshall Islands fully live up to their responsibilities. The letter touched on the recent 5 year extension of the Enewetak Food Program by Congress and discussed the adverse impacts within the U.S. Congress and neighboring nations that might arise should RMI pursue siting a waste repository in the Marshall Islands. The letter reaffirmed Congressman Miller's support of full disclosure of information and stressed that the public must be able to scrutinize all relevant materials to ensure that appropriate steps have been and will continue to be taken to address the affects of the nuclear testing. He emphasized that the information gleaned at the Symposium and the many contacts established would likely be an important source of knowledge in the future.

Full Statement by Ambassador Joan Plaisted.

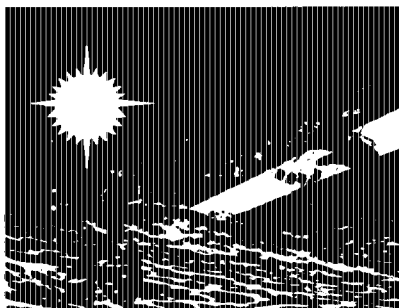
Ambassador Tono Eitel's presentation entitled "Germany's Relations with the Marshall Islands - Past, Present and Future -

The Brigham Young University's paper on "The Republic of the Marshall Islands/Brigham Young University-Hawaii Degree Completion Program for mature Professionals by Miles Kawatachi and Keith Roberts.

Ron Riggs', Department of Defense, Space Missile and Defense Command presentation on the "Kwajalein Missile Range, An Enduring Partnership.

Hofstra University Cultural Center

presents



From Dependency to Freedom

A Symposium Charting the Future of the Marshall Islands

October 3, 1997

Hofstra Cultural Center Lecture Hall, First Floor
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, South Campus

8 a.m. Registration & Coffee

9 a.m. Symposium Opening
Patrick H. Mahoney, Symposium
Director

Greetings from the Hofstra University
Community
James M. Stuart
President

9:10 a.m. Keynote Addresses

*The United States and the Republic of the
Marshall Islands, From Dependency to
Freedom: What the Future Holds*
The Honorable Joan Plaisted,
United States Ambassador to the Marshall Islands

On the Republic of the Marshall Islands
His Excellency Phillip Muller,
Foreign Minister, Marshall Islands

10:00 a.m. Panel I: Ties that Bind
Historic Connections

*The Discovery of the Northern
Marshall Islands by the Spanish,
between 1526 and 1568*
Rod Lévesque, Lévesque Publications,
Québec, Canada

*Independence, Geopolitics, and
Expansionism Micronesia and the United
States in Historical Perspective*
Glenn Petersen, Professor of
Anthropology and International Affairs,
Baruch College

Forging a Partnership
James A. Walker, Chief Historian,
U. S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command

Sung for Anidreb
Kevin Hart, Marshalls Marine

11:15 a.m. Panel II: International Affairs

*On the Republic of the Marshall Islands
Participation in the UN*
His Excellency Laurence Edwards,
Marshall Islands Ambassador to the UN

*Germany's Relations with the Marshall
Islands: Past, Present, and Future*
His Excellency Tono Eitel, German
Ambassador to the UN

12 p.m. Luncheon

Speaker

*The College of the Marshall Islands:
Building the Bridge to the 21st Century*
Alfred Capelle, President of the College of
the Marshall Islands

1:30 p.m. Panel III: Bilateral Relations with
the United States

View from the Marshall Islands Embassy
His Excellency Banny de Brum,
Marshall Islands Ambassador to the US

*US Army Kwajalein Atoll and the
Kwajalein Missile Range*
Ronald M. Riggs, Legal Advisor
US Army, Space and Missile Defense Command

*The Department of Energy's Current Programs
and Future Direction for Medical Care
Delivery, Environmental Monitoring
and Dose Assessment*
R.T. Bell, Supervisor of Health Programs
US Department of Energy

2:45 p.m.

Panel IVa: Health and the Environment

Medical Needs of the Marshallese Community

Ashok N. Vaswani
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Lifestyle and Health in the Republic of the Marshall Islands: Individual, Community, and Environmental Factors

Christine McMurray
The Australian National University

The Health Predicament of the US Associated Pacific Islands: What Role for Primary Health Care

Neal A. Palafox
John Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i

Transboundary Trade in Nuclear Waste: Issues for the Marshall Islands

Karin von Storkirch
University of New England, Australia

2:45 p.m.

Panel IVb: IS Technology and Business Development

Media Services, Room 122, First Floor,
Axinn Library

Building a Viable Business Sector in the RMI

Ross Prizzia
University of Hawai'i, West Oahu

Technological Advancement as an Essential Component of a Marshallese Renaissance

Jason Roberts
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Networking for Self-Sufficiency: Options for the Future of RMI

Mitch Leventhal and Deborah A. Williams.
Microstate Corporation

4 p.m.

Panel V: Cultural and Social Issues

The Feminine Voice in the Marshall Islands Experience Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Neilson R. Edwards,
Marshall Islands Mission to the UN

Re-centering the Margins Myths of Development and Models of Change

Laurence Marshall Carucci
Montana State University, Bozeman

The RMI/Brigham Young University-Hawai'i Degree Completion Program for Mature Professionals

Keith J. Roberts
Brigham Young University-Hawai'i
and Miles Kawatachi, Consultant to the
RMI Ministry of Education

From Traditional to Today: A Look at the Change in Roles for the Marshallese Woman and its Social Consequences

Michele Roberts
University of Wisconsin, Madison

5:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks & Reception

***From Dependency to Freedom
A Symposium Charting the Future
of the Marshall Islands***

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Hofstra University is pleased to welcome you to *From Dependency to Freedom: A Symposium Charting the Future of the Marshall Islands*. The goals for today's event are simple: to share ideas, gain fresh perspective on past and current issues; and to suggest a vision of the future. Charting the future requires both courage and wisdom. Those gathered at Hofstra University today possess both.

During the various sessions, over coffee and through lunch, and during the informal discussions throughout the day, we hope that you will gain better insight into the significant challenges faced by the people of the Marshall Islands. We hope you will take time to reflect upon the material presented and share your own positions with new friends and colleagues. I hope that at the end of the day we agree that this event marked a beginning in understanding the Marshall Islands and its people.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.


Patrick H. Mahoney

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The successful organization of today's symposium is due to the energetic work of several talented individuals and organizations. I would like to acknowledge, with grateful appreciation, members of the Hofstra University community for their support. In particular, I wish to express my deep appreciation to President Shuart who was willing to give this project a hearing and, ultimately, his support. My sincere thanks are extended to Vice President Block, Natalie Datlof, Athelene Collins-Prince and the Cultural Center staff. Dr. Alexej Ugrinsky, who has my deep respect, deserves all our thanks for making funds, time, and facilities available for this event. My warmest wishes are extended to him.

Four organizations are deserving of special recognition. First, I have been very fortunate to have had the advice of our Honorary Committee: Cherry Corey, former Executive Director of the Harvard University Social and Natural History Museum; Francis X. Hezel, S.J., Micronesian Seminar on Pohnpei; Dr. Akira Iriye, Charles Warren Professor of American History at Harvard University; and His Excellency Phillip Muller, RMI Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Each provided invaluable assistance at different times during the several months of planning.

Second, those who served on the Symposium Committee similarly made significant contributions to this project. They include Keith Arnold, David Flynn, Ray Landry, Carla LeBlanc, His Excellency Jakeo Relang, Rob Seidel, Paul Sirianni, Kevin Walsh, and several friends and colleagues who prefer anonymity. Let me add to this group our graphic artist, Richard Bushey.

Third, let me express my sincere thanks to today's speakers, especially those who traveled around the globe to participate in this event. I am especially grateful to the Honorable Joan Plaisted and the other U.S. government officials who shared their agencies' positions on these significant issues.

Finally, let me thank His Excellency Laurence N. Edwards, Mrs. Neijon Edwards, and the staff of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations for their patience and willingness to support this endeavor.

Thank you for participating in the symposium. I hope those of you who are visitors to the Hofstra campus will return and share new experiences with friends and colleagues.

From Dependency to Freedom
A Symposium Charting the Future of the Marshall Islands

Symposium Hosts

Dr. Alexej Ugrinsky

Director for Documentation, Finance and Planning
And Director for Music Programs
Hofstra Cultural Center

Alexej Ugrinsky is Adjunct Associate Professor of German and Director of Documentation, Finance, and Planning at the Hofstra University Cultural Center. He served as coordinator of the Ronald Reagan and George Bush Presidential Conferences. Dr. Ugrinsky's published works include *Gerald R. Ford and the Politics of Post-Watergate America* (Greenwood, 1994), *The Presidency and Domestic Policies of Jimmy Carter* (Greenwood, 1994), *Jimmy Carter—Foreign Policy and Post-Presidential Years* (Greenwood, 1994), *Government Structures in the U.S.A. and the Sovereign States of the Former U.S.S.R.* (Greenwood, 1996), and *President Reagan and the World* (Greenwood, 1997).

Mr. Patrick Henry Mahoney

Symposium Director

Patrick Mahoney is a staff member at Lincoln Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to coming to MIT in 1988, Mr. Mahoney worked for the Department of Defense. During his government service, he served as coordinator for various professional seminars and workshops for the DoD and the defense industry. His seminar "Safeguarding DoD Information in Today's Environment," held in 1988 at the New York Institute of Technology, earned a commendation from the Defense Investigative Service.

His academic research includes a thesis entitled, *Enigmatic Trust: The Bomb's Influence on Trusteeship Policy and the Marshall Islands*, completed under the direction of Dr. Akira Iriye, Charles Warren Professor of American History, Harvard University. He has delivered various presentations including *Lincoln Laboratory and the Marshall Islands* at the 9th Annual US Navy CASU F-20 meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. On September 10th, Mr. Mahoney returned to St. Louis to present *Targeting Technology: Lessons from an Espionage Conviction* at the 43rd Annual American Society for Industrial Security seminar. His appointment as Symposium Director is based on years of experience managing various projects at MIT's scientific research and development facilities on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Mr. Mahoney is an alumnus of Hofstra University. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1986. He also holds a Master of Liberal Arts from Harvard University.

Keynote Speakers

The Honorable Joan Plaisted
United States Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands
and to the Republic of Kiribati
US Embassy, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

The United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands
From Dependency to Freedom: What the Future Holds

This presentation is expected to cover several aspects of the current bilateral relationship and what the future may look like. An official abstract was not available for publication.

Joan M. Plaisted, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and to the Republic of Kiribati since January 18, 1996, is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service.

Prior to assuming her present duties in the Pacific, Ambassador Plaisted served as a Senior Advisor to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. Previously, she served as Director of the State Department Office for Thailand and Burma Affairs, following a tour as Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission of the American Embassy in Morocco.

An experienced economist and trade negotiator, Ambassador Plaisted spent most of the 1980s furthering U.S. economic interests in Asia. During this time she was Deputy Director in the State Department's Office of China Affairs, responsible for U.S. economic relations with China. She also served in Taiwan, heading all major trade negotiations to open Taiwan's market. The Ambassador also held the economic portfolio while stationed in Hong Kong from 1980-1983.

Ambassador Plaisted has served with the White House Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in Geneva, and represented the United States at the Organization for Economic Cooperation in Paris. She began her Foreign Service career in 1973, as a commercial officer in Paris. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ambassador Plaisted began her twenty-eight year government service career by working for the Commerce Department on Japan, Korea, and Pacific Island issues.

The Ambassador received her Master's and Bachelor's degrees from The School of International Service, the American University, in Washington, DC. She has also attended the University of Grenoble in France, the University of California at Berkeley, and is a National War College graduate. The American University honored her with its Lodestar Award for the School's most outstanding alumna in 1993. Her other honors include three State Department Superior Honor Awards. She is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, and *Who's Who in American Women*.

Keynote Speakers

**His Excellency Phillip Muller
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
the Republic of the Marshall Islands
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands**

On the Republic of the Marshall Islands

The Foreign Minister will present a statement on behalf of the Government of the Marshall Islands. He will chart the path of the Marshallese people through their accomplishments and setbacks, their colonial ties and their experiences as an independent nation. In his view the Marshall Islands is learning from others through cooperation. That is why his Government was supportive of this event, since it will allow a new and slightly different approach to charting the future course of the Marshall Islands. It can also point to the need to minimize any detrimental effects on Marshallese society as a result of economic growth and development.

The Minister will discuss the relations between the Marshall Islands and the United States as well as the significant interest in formally renewing that relationship. The Marshallese people will be prepared for the next round of negotiations on the Compact.

The Marshall Islands is taking part in matters of international importance through their convictions, and basing their positions on basic human decency. The Minister is convinced that this symposium will help the Marshall Islands talk to others with good ideas based on a willingness to help a people struggling to claim their place in the 21st Century.

His Excellency Phillip Henry Muller is Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Foreign Minister attended Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri from 1975 through 1979. From 1980 to 1982, he served as Director of Youth Services in the Ministry of Social Services. Following that position, he served as Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 1982 through 1984. In 1984, Minister Muller was elected to the Nitijela and continues to serve as a member of the Marshallese parliament. He has served in various presidential cabinet posts including the Minister in Assistance to the President, 1984 to 1986, Minister of Education, 1986 to 1994, and as Minister of Foreign Affairs since 1994.

Speaker Profiles

(listed alphabetically)

R. T. Bell

Supervisor, Pacific Health Programs
Office of Health Studies
U.S. Department of Energy
Germantown, Maryland, United States of America

The Department of Energy's Current Programs and Future Direction for Medical Care Delivery, Environmental Monitoring and Dose Assessment

The Department of Energy currently provides medical surveillance and care for the Rongelap and Utirik populations exposed to the acute fallout from Test Bravo in Operation Castle, one of the U.S. atmospheric nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific in 1954. These populations are provided primary and secondary medical care in local Marshall Islands settings and full tertiary care for conditions thought to be related to their past exposure. The Department continues to conduct an environmental and ecological assessment program that has developed mitigative procedures that assist resettling populations in understanding the potential impacts of residual contamination levels and ways to reduce their incorporation into locally grown food sources. The Department also provides prospective dose assessment based on environmental data and conducts whole body counting and plutonium bioassays to assess individual dose for resettling populations.

The Department is currently redesigning its medical care delivery process to be more community based, and to promote education and incorporation of Marshallese trainees into the medical delivery and dose assessment process. Future plans include assistance to the Marshallese in building personnel and medical care infrastructure that will increase self-sufficiency. Remediation efforts guided by the results of environmental monitoring will assist resettling populations as they build new community infrastructures. Assessment of individual and population doses will be provided to ensure that living in effectively mitigated island environments will not produce any adverse effects.

R. Thomas Bell is a health physicist by training who has 34 years experience in radiological control, radiological health and ionizing radiation health effects applications and programs. Twenty-six years involved active duty U.S. Navy assignments in these disciplines where he served as a Medical Service Corps officer. Mr. Bell is currently Program Manager for the Department of Energy's Marshall Islands program where he coordinates and facilitates the programs that are dedicated to providing the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands special medical care for exposed populations; environmental monitoring of contaminated atolls; and mitigation strategies and techniques to assist in the resettlement of Marshall Islands populations whose homelands are still residually contaminated from fallout from the United States atmospheric nuclear weapons tests. He assists the Office in developing dose reconstruction capabilities and dose assessment techniques that help to reduce uncertainties as to dose received. These efforts are particularly focused on exposed populations affected in the past from environmental

accidents/releases such as those received from the Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident; from releases from the former Soviet Union's weapon's production and waste processing facilities; or from downwind atmospheric radioactive fallout caused by former Soviet atmospheric nuclear weapons tests.

Mr. Bell received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Denison University and his Master of Science in Physiology and Biophysics at the Georgetown University Graduate School.

Alfred Capelle
President, College of the Marshall Islands
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

The College of the Marshall Islands
Building the Bridge to the 21st Century

The College of the Marshall Islands is looking forward and holds significant aspirations and expectations for the College in the future. This includes the need to expand physically and intellectually. A master plan calls for the overall improvement of instructional services, expansion of the nursing and education programs, and the development of an English language institute to upgrade language skills of all CMI students. The College will also work to preserve the Marshallese language through the completion of the Marshallese/English language dictionary project.

The College is working to bridge the gap between the traditions of the past and the realistic needs of future generations. CMI recognizes its responsibility to prepare a generation of Marshallese youth to successfully meet the challenges of language and science and technology, whether these appear in paper or electronic form. With determination and the firm foundations of a living indigenous language and culture, CMI and its graduates can set high expectations for the future. The College looks forward to exchanging ideas on how best to build the educational bridge to the future.

Alfred Capelle is the current President of the College of the Marshall Islands. He has worked as a consultant to the Marshall Islands Ministry of Education and was Chief Executive Officer of the Alele Museum in the Marshall Islands. From 1971 to 1973 he was a East-West Center Grantee and co-authored the *Marshallese-English Dictionary* under the auspices of the Pacific Asian Linguistics Institute. President Capelle has been a teacher and served as Mayor of Likiep Atoll from 1966 to 1968. From 1962 to 1964 he served in the United States Army at posts in Hawaii and Thailand.

President Capelle holds degrees from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. He serves on several boards of education and has consulted on various task forces. He is focused on the perpetuation of Marshallese language and culture through traditional and modern means.

Laurence Marshall Carucci, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology, Department of Sociology
Montana State University, Bozeman
Bozeman, Montana, United States of America

Re-centering the Margins
Myths of Development and Models of Change

While it is no myth that rapid changes are occurring in the Marshall Islands, the taken-for-granted models of development and modernization that are used to implement and direct these changes are hardly adequate and far from being unabashedly beneficial. In this paper, the author suggests that models of development all too often categorize and treat Marshall Islanders, like peoples in other emerging nations, as infantile and ill-developed or, at best, as adolescents desiring to become "just like us" (adult developed nations). These generic models of development are particularly unsuited to the Marshall Islands, where both environment and culture are extraordinarily fragile. As an alternative, the author suggests that any concept of change must be culturally and historically situated. Therefore, within the Republic of the Marshall Islands and, equally within the emerging diasporic communities of the Marshall Islanders, we must discover the optimum strategies of desirable social change in the action strategies and meaning scenarios of local people. These local values must be continuously balanced with issues of self-sufficiency and sustainability in order to ensure a meaningful, self-empowered, future for residents of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as a whole.

Dr. Laurence Marshall Carucci is Professor of Anthropology at Montana State University. He has lived for approximately five of the past twenty years in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and has worked on the historical geography of Kuwajleen Atoll, on Marshall Islander's histories of World War II, and on the culture and social life of Āne-wetak and Wūjlañ residents. Llo aelōñ in Majōl eta in Leri. Etto wōt aō jokwe ilo Wūjlan im Āne-wetak, im juon kōrā ilo aelōñ en ear kōkajiriri iō, etan Piola (juon ian kōrā ro jibwin Mejenkālōk). Barāinwōt, kin men co, ij möttan riEjoa. Etan jikin jokwe eo aō ilo Ānewetak, Lopāt, im ilo Wūjlañ, etto aō pād ilo Waikiki. Dr. Carucci has published numerous articles on the Marshall Islands along with two books, *Nuclear Nativity* (Northern Illinois University Press), and *In Anxious Anticipation of Kuwajleen's Uneven Fruits* (USASSMC[in press]).

His Excellency Banny Debrum
Marshall Islands Ambassador to the United States of America
Washington, D.C., United States of America

View from the Marshall Islands Embassy

Ambassador Debrum will deliver a statement providing insight into the current bilateral relationship and the mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Embassy to the United States. An official abstract was not available for publication.

ADDENDUM

His Excellency Banny de Brum
Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
to the United States of America
Marshall Islands Embassy
Washington, D.C., United States of America

View from the Marshall Islands Embassy

The Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands has direct responsibility for working with the United States Government, its agencies and organizations, and for acting as an intermediary between the U.S. and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The close ties between the RMI and the U.S. began during World War II, weathered challenges resulting from adverse effects of the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing Program in the Marshall Islands, and continue after independence.

Today the RMI and the U.S. enjoy friendship marked by shared history and goals, transparency in relations, and cooperation on a wide range of issues. This relationship continues to grow and evolve as strategic partners.

His Excellency Banny de Brum has served as Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United States since April 30, 1996. Since 1985, Ambassador de Brum had served as Deputy Chief of Mission with the RMI Embassy to the United States. Prior to his service with the Embassy, he served as Legislative Liaison Officer and Energy Planning Officer for the RMI Government in Majuro. Ambassador de Brum received a B.A. in Sociology from Regis University in 1981.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the
2. various methods of determining the rate of reaction.
3. The second part is devoted to a discussion of the
4. various methods of determining the order of reaction.
5. The third part is devoted to a discussion of the
6. various methods of determining the activation energy.

Ambassador Debrum is the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador to the United States of America. He maintains his office in Washington, DC and is principally engaged in the managing aspects of the bilateral relationship with the US Government. An official biography was not available for publication.

His Excellency Laurence N. Edwards
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations
New York, United States of America

***On the Republic of the Marshall Islands
Participation in the United Nations***

The Permanent Representative to the United Nations since August 1994, the Ambassador will describe the Marshall Islands' participation at the United Nations. Since becoming a Member on September 17, 1991, the United Nations has been a major factor in Marshall Islands foreign policy. It has also been a position of pride in the accomplishments of the Marshall Islands Mission in the working of the UN System.

The Ambassador will outline the cooperative arrangements necessary for a small country to be an effective participant in the United Nations, and will discuss some of the areas of cooperation. He will also explain the role of the delegation, the importance of sovereign equality and the cooperation extended to important allies.

Ambassador Edwards is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. He received primary and secondary education in the Marshall Islands. He later attended the Mid Pacific Institute of Hawai'i, the Central Washington State College, and the University of Guam where he majored in Radio and Television Production. He also studied General Education at the University of Hawai'i. Following college Ambassador Edwards served as Secondary School teacher while maintaining responsibilities as Station Manager for WSZO, the Marshall Islands Government radio Station. He was also the Associate Editor of the first Marshall Islands newspaper, the *Marshalls Observer*.

In 1970, Mr. Edwards was elected as a legislator to the Marshall Islands parliament, the Nitijele, and held the position of Vice-Speaker for eight years. In 1973, Ambassador Edwards was appointed to be the first Marshall Islands Government Representative on Kwajalein, an atoll 280 miles west of Majuro, the capitol of the Marshall Islands. Kwajalein is a US military base.

After ten years of service in Kwajalein Missile Range, Kwajalein Atoll, Ambassador Edwards returned to Majuro, the Capitol of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, where he held several senior positions such as the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Services prior to his appointment as the first Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Republic of Fiji Islands in September 1988. During the three year posting in Fiji Islands, he was appointed as non-resident Ambassador to the State of Israel, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands. After completion of the three year posting in Fiji, Mr. Edwards

received an appointment from the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as the first Ambassador to the People's Republic of China on September 11, 1991. During the years of posting in China, Ambassador Edwards was also accredited to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Republic of Indonesia, and the Republic of Singapore. He is now Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Neijon R. Edwards
Counselor
Permanent Mission of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations
New York, United States of America

*The Feminine Voice in Marshall Islands Experience
Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*

The future of the Marshall Islands depends on the ability of individual women and men realizing their potential. This can be done by fostering the aspirations and developing the skills of both sexes. In order to paint a comprehensive vision of the future, the other voice, that is, the feminine, must be heard. Drawing on myth, history, and current statistics, the author defines the feminine voice found in Marshall Islands experience and describes its contribution to expressions of the past and plans for the future.

Neijon Rema Smith Edwards serves as Counselor at the Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations in New York. Prior to the United Nations post she was a First Secretary in two of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Embassies. She started working as First Secretary in the RMI Embassy in Fiji Islands since 1988 to 1991, then she served in Beijing, China from 1991 to 1994. In 1994, she assumed her present duties at the RMI Mission to the United Nations. Mrs. Edwards has been involved with women and girls organizations in the Marshall Islands since 1961. She started as an Assistant Community Advisor for Women's Affairs during the Trust Territory Administration. She started the Girl Scouts activities in the Marshall Islands in 1964. She represented the Marshall Islands at the *USA and its Territories Women Conference* in Houston, Texas in 1977. She chaired the *Marshall Islands First Women Conference* in 1978 in Majuro, Marshall Islands. After the independence of the Marshall Islands in 1986, the Women United Together Marshall Islands organization was established, in which Mrs. Edwards served as its first President from 1991 to 1997. She also served as Head of the Marshall Islands Delegation to the *Fourth Women Conference* in Beijing, China in 1995.

Prior to overseas posts Mrs. Edwards worked for the Trust Territory Government from 1961 to 1964 as an Assistant Community Advisor for Women. In 1965, she pursued academic courses on Guam and attended Washington State, Ellensburg campus. From 1969 to 1973 she served as an Administrator for the Department of Education in Majuro. From 1973 through 1983 she was Director of the School Lunch Program in Ebeye, Kwajalein Atoll. From 1983 to 1988, she was the Assistant Secretary for the Ministry of Health Services for Majuro, Marshall Islands.

His Excellency Tono Eitel
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations
New York, United States of America

***Germany's Relations with the Marshall Islands
Past, Present, and Future***

This presentation explores Germany's colonial past with regard to the Marshall Islands, a German protectorate from 1886 until 1914. It outlines the various forms of cooperation existing between the two independent countries today, through bilateral relations as well as through various international fora, including the United Nations. The speech discusses several areas of common interest to Germany and the Marshall Islands, like environmental protection and economic development. It touches upon efforts aimed at increased regional cooperation in the South Pacific and concludes with some remarks on future bilateral relations.

Ambassador Eitel has served as Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations since 1995. He entered the German Foreign Service in 1963. From 1963 to 1964, he served in the German Mission to the European Communities in Brussels. From 1964 to 1966 he served in the Federal Foreign Office and in 1966 he was appointed to serve in the German Embassy in Kingston. From 1969 to 1970 he returned to the Federal Foreign Office and later served for three years in the Federal Chancellery. From 1974 to 1977 he served in the German Embassy in Bern. From 1980 to 1982 he was Head of the Working Staff on the Law of the Sea Conference. From 1982 to 1987, Ambassador Eitel served as German Ambassador to Lebanon in Beirut. From 1987 to 1992, the Ambassador was Director of the Legal Department in the Federal Foreign Service and from 1992 to 1995, he served as Director-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Advisor for the Foreign Office.

Ambassador Eitel studied law at the Universities of Berlin, Bonn, Hamburg and Münster. He received a Juris Doctor in 1961. From 1961 to 1962 he furthered his legal studies at New York University. In 1962, he received a Master of Laws in International Law. In 1991 he was named Honorary Professor by the University of Bochum.

Kevin Hart
Marshalls Marine
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

***Sung for Anidreb
A brief history of the Marshall Islands***

Fifty years following the initiation of the Trusteeship Agreement between the United States and the United Nations, it is timely to review the resulting relationship between the United States and the Marshall Islands. Each party has learned much from decades of interactions, but greater knowledge has not necessarily produced more sympathetic appreciation of one another.

The history and culture of the people of the Marshall Islands stretch back two millennia. Challenged by the difficulties of surviving life on the low-lying coral atolls of the mid-Pacific, the people developed a highly specialized system of social relationships wherein getting along with others was a primary value. More recently, the Marshall Islands have succeeded in gaining substantial amounts of economic assistance relative to other Pacific countries by bargaining with the United States for the strategic value of their location.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union has depreciated US perception of the strategic value of the Marshall Islands to its national security. The United States has begun to reevaluate the cost of its commitments to the islands. Important questions about the future partnership between the Marshalls and the United States are being raised. What values will determine the goals with which each partner redefines its interests? What commonalties will form the basis of renewed agreements. This essay describes salient cultural and historical conditions that have shaped the terms of the alliance between the United States and the Marshall Islands.

Kevin Hart first became associated with the Marshall Islands as a Peace Corps Volunteer in 1967. He has since lived for extended periods in the Marshalls, serving as manager of an outer atoll trading store, editor of the *Marshall Islands Journal*, and researcher studying the sustainable utilization of marine resources in the outer atolls. Early in the 1980s he sailed solo from the East Coast of the United States, via Panama, French Polynesia and the Cook Islands to the Marshalls. In 1989, Mr. Hart founded Marshalls Marine, a fiberglass boat building company in Majuro, which he continues to operate.

In the United States, Mr. Hart has worked as a teacher, a research consultant, business manager and entrepreneur. A naval architect, several of his small boat designs have won awards in international competitions. In 1984, he formed a company in the United States, employing Marshall Islanders, to build and market an original small boat of his design on which he holds the patent. He is an associate member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. Mr. Hart is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and studied at the Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. His publications include articles on the Marshall Islands and on small boat design. He is a citizen of the Republic of Ireland as well as a citizen of the United States of America.

Miles Kawatachi, M.A., Ed.M.
Consultant to the Ministry of Education
Republic of the Marshall Islands

***The Republic of the Marshall Islands/Brigham Young University-Hawaii
Degree Completion Program for Mature Professionals***

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) entered into an agreement with the Brigham Young University-Hawaii (BYUH) as the result of the study of manpower needs in the government. The agreement provided for a degree completion program for mid-career professionals in the Ministry of Education (MOE). The Ministry of Education defined the

participants based upon criteria that were jointly set by the Ministry and the University. The participants were all in positions that required the kinds of skills that are provided in a master's degree in administrative leadership. But, since none of them had bachelors' degrees, and the unique nature of working in an emerging nation with multinational agreements made the understanding of the political nature of the educational endeavor necessary, a BA in political science was selected as the vehicle in which to construct the degree completion program. It satisfied all of the need for public management and policy understanding along with a component in political inquiry that was cast as action research for the cohort.

A total of twenty-two eligible students were in the project. There were also seventeen who started in Fall of 1992 and another five who started the following year. Feedback from the Ministry has been positive regarding improvement in work habits and competence. One of the cohort is now working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The others are still with the Ministry of Education. As of the December Commencement of 1996 a total of seventeen of the original cohort of twenty-two graduated (a success rate of seventy-seven percent).

Miles S. Kawatachi is a retired a retired Hawai'i Department of Education administrator, having served for more than 25 years as a teacher, school administrator, education specialist, and State Director for Special Needs programs and services. He is also a retired U.S. Army Reserve officer, having served as a civil affairs officer, commander of a military history detachment, and coordinator of technical assistance programs to American Samoa and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. Since 1987, he has served as a planning, management, evaluation, and education consultant throughout Micronesia, including the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and has also served as a consultant or instructor with the Nevada State Department of Educational Development, the Asian Development Bank, University of Hawai'i, University of Kansas, and Brigham Young University-Hawai'i.

Mitch Leventhal, Ph.D.
President, Microstate Corporation

Networking for Self-Sufficiency
Options for the Future of RMI

The advent of the World Wide Web has opened a wide range of development options to isolated regions and islands that were not previously available. Since 1994, the Microstate Network has been studying island-based and island-centric development initiatives which utilize the Internet. These initiatives have ranged from education, to health, to development coordination and beyond.

In their presentation, Mitch Leventhal and Deborah Williams will discuss various approaches that have emerged both within Micronesia and beyond, and will then contextualize these approaches and opportunities to the Marshallese case. The presentation includes online visits to numerous island web initiatives.

Mitch Leventhal, an expert in jurisdictional development in isolated regions, is the founder of The Microstate Network <<http://microstate.net>> begun in 1994 as a clearinghouse for relevant information and to incubate indigenous dissemination of information. The Microstate Network is now the oldest and most comprehensive resource of its kind focusing on small states and islands. As a consequence of this activity, The Microstate Corporation <<http://microstate.com>> was created to specifically develop technologies which can permit widely distributed maintenance and delivery of content in areas with limited trained personnel. The Microstate companies have consulted with clients as diverse as the Ponape Agriculture & Trade School and the Bermuda Stock Exchange, and have spearheaded several island and Pacific region initiatives.

Mitch Leventhal received his doctorate from the University of Chicago, where he specialized in international services trade and education. He is a founding member of the Island Web Consortium.

Rod Lévesque
Historian and Publisher
Lévesque Publications
Québec, Canada

The Discovery of the Northern Marshall Islands by the Spanish, between 1526 and 1568

The Marshall Islands got their name from the British sea-captain who rediscovered them in June 1788. However, various Spanish expeditions had already discovered them more than two and a half centuries earlier.

This paper will present the historical facts of these earlier discoveries from Spanish documents, show the results of a study of ship tracks, and identify the islands that were thus discovered. In a sense, this will be a summary of some documents from Volumes 1 and 2 of Mr. Lévesque's *History of Micronesia*, and a rewrite of Sections 4 to 10 of the well-known book on the *Discovery of the Pacific Islands* by Andrew Sharp.

To summarize, the northern Marshall Islands discovered by the Spanish are: 1) Taongi by the Loaysa expedition in 1526; 2) Ujelang and Eniwetok, by Saavedra in 1529; 3) Wotje, Likiep, and Wotho, by Villalobos in 1542-43; 4) Mejit, Ailuk, and Jemo, by Legazpi in 1565; 5) there are a number of possibilities along the track of the rescue ship of 1566, but the most likely route was via Erikub and Kwajalein; and 6) Namu, discovered by the first Mendaña expedition in 1568.

Rodrigue Lévesque is a specialist in organization and methods, systems and procedures, management information systems, project management, and information research. He is involved in several management consulting projects with the several United Nations development agencies. He is also involved in researching, writing, and publishing a series of books on the history of Micronesia. From 1975 through 1978 he worked in Latin America in various UN development projects. In 1979 he went to Zaire to work on a UNDP project – Public Service Forum. He has done similar work in Central Africa, Ghana, São Tomé y Príncipe. From 1988 through 1990, he

worked with the Ministry of Planning on a UNDP project in Togo. In 1990, he went to Somalia to work on a UNIDO project on privatization of industrial state enterprises.

Mr. Lévesque served with the Canadian Armed Forces in various capacities and positions, from avionics technician to telecommunications engineer, and management consultant. He has taught courses at the college level.

Mr. Lévesque studied classical studies in the 1950s. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at McGill University in Montréal. In 1974 he earned a Master's in Business Administration at the University of Ottawa.

Christine McMurray, Ph.D.
Director, Graduate Studies in Demography
The Australian National University
Canberra, Australia

Lifestyle and Health in the Republic of the Marshall Islands: Individual, Community and Environmental Factors

Recent decades have seen major advances in medical technology and health service delivery which have greatly reduced the risk of infectious disease. In most societies life expectancy has increased significantly, and degenerative disease has replaced infectious disease as the main cause of death. However, the onset of degenerative disease may be hastened by various factors which operate at the community or individual level. These include environmental factors such as pollution; community factors such as the food choices offered at retail outlets; and personal health-related behavior such as tobacco smoking, drinking alcohol and attention to physical fitness. Thus good community health depends not only on the availability of health services, but also on environmental and behavioral factors.

It is well known that the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) suffered environmental contamination as a consequence of nuclear testing, and that this seriously damaged the health of many citizens. Less attention has been given to the indirect effects on health of contact with America. On the one hand this association brought improved medical services and increased investment in the health sector, but it also shaped community level factors and provided a behavior model which has had some negative impacts on health. Marshallese responses were complex and varied, ranging from acceptance of American values to total rejection and strong reaction against them.

The RMI now has high levels of degenerative disease which are related to the failure of some citizens to adopt a healthy lifestyle. In order to fully understand why this is so and to find solutions to the problem, it is necessary to look at the underlying causes of individual health behavior. This includes individual perceptions of health, community level factors and the environmental context. This paper is concerned with the underlying causes of individual health-related behavior in the RMI.

Chris McMurray has a doctorate in Epidemiology and Population Health. She has taught at the Australian National University for more than twenty years, and specializes in health demography. She has extensive research and consultancy experience in the Pacific, and also in Africa and Asia. Her first visit to RMI was in 1993 when she was a member of an Asian Development Bank Mission to prepare the Population and Health Project. She returned to Majuro the following year to coordinate the demographic and health data component of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Household Survey.

This year she spent time in the RMI with a co-researcher, Dr. Roy Smith, from the University of Nottingham Trent, UK, learning about perceptions of health and lifestyle related health problems in the RMI. This paper is the product of that research.

Neal A. Palafox, M.D., M.P.H.
(co-authored with Seiji Yamada, M.D., M.P.H.)
Associate Professor of Family Medicine
John Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i
Mililani, Hawai'i

***The Health Predicament of the U.S.-Associated Pacific Islands
What Role for Primary Health Care***

This presentation will provide a perspective on the evolution and development of the health systems in the U.S. Associated Pacific Islands and how that development has adversely impacted the health status of the peoples of those areas.

The authors have reviewed documents pertaining to the health system from these areas as well as the published literature. In addition, both authors have lived and worked in the U.S.-Associated Pacific Islands and draw from their experience and observations.

Features of the U.S. medical model that have been adopted in the Pacific Islands are an emphasis on curative medicine, recourse to outside referral, and displacement of the responsibility for health away from the individual. The resulting problems include the following: the diseases of underdevelopment coexist with those of development. Benefits are felt by only a small proportion of the populace. Costs rise as inappropriate technology is applied. The situation fosters unrealistic expectations and dependency.

Neal A. Palafox is an Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Residency Director at the Department of Family Practice and Community Health, John Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i in Mililani. Prior to becoming Director of Residency in October 1995, Dr. Palafox served as Associate Residency Director beginning in April 1995. From 1993 through April of 1995, Dr. Palafox served as Director of Research.

In 1983 Dr. Palafox served as a National Health Corps Physician in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Over the years he has served in positions of increased responsibility in the Marshall Islands. From 1985 through March of 1987, Dr. Palafox served as Deputy Medical Director of the Four Atoll Health Care Program for Radiation Affected Peoples of the Marshall Islands. Later, from 1987 through 1992, he served as Medical Director of the Bureau of Preventative Health Services and National AIDS Prevention Chairperson in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. From September 1992 through May 1993 he served as a consultant to the Ministry of Health and Environment.

Dr. Palafox's published works include *Transcultural Health Care: A Handbook for Health Care Professionals in Hawaii*, (with A. Warren, UH Press, 1983); *Successful Treatment of Ciguatera Fish Poisoning with Intravenous Mannitol*, with L. Jain; et al, appearing in the Journal of American Medical Association in 1988; *Medical Effectiveness Studies in the American Associated Pacific Island Nations: Cultural, Ethical, Practical Considerations*, in Asian American and Pacific Islander Journal of Health in 1996, and various other articles and peer reviewed reports. Dr. Palafox has also given papers at various international conferences sponsored by the National Institute of Health and the World Health Organization.

Dr. Palafox attended the John Burns School of Medicine and received his MD in 1980. He served his residency at the UCLA Hospital and Clinics in Los Angeles, California. He earned a Master's in Public Health at the Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Glenn Petersen

Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs
Graduate Center and Baruch College
City University of New York
New York, United States of America

***Independence, Geopolitics, and Expansionism
Micronesia and the United States in Historical Perspective***

Two of the Micronesian states, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, have already begun renegotiating their compacts of Free Association with the United States. With the end of the Cold War it is easy to imagine that the terms of any bilateral political relations with the United States will be significantly transformed this time around. American interests in the Central and Western Pacific, however, have a much longer historical trajectory than is generally understood, and Micronesians have more fully developed strategic outlooks than is ordinarily appreciated. The future of Micronesian-American relations must be considered within a much deeper historical perspective.

Glenn Petersen is Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs at Baruch College in New York. Since earning his doctorate in Anthropology in 1977 from Columbia University, Dr. Petersen has been a Visiting Professor in International Relations at the University of Puerto Rico. He served as Assistant Professor at Baruch from 1977 to 1982. In 1983, he became Associate Professor and in 1987 earned the rank of Professor. He is the author of numerous books and articles including, *Ethnicity and Interests at the 1990 Federated States of Micronesia Constitutional Convention* (The Australian National University, 1993), *Lost in the Weeds: Theme and Variation in Pohnpei Political Mythology* (University of Hawai'i, 1990), *Decentralization and Micronesian Federalism: Pohnpei's 1983 Plebiscite Vote* (South Pacific Forum, 1986), and *One Man Cannot Rule a Thousand: Fission in a Ponapean Chieftdom* (University of Michigan, 1982).

Professor Petersen holds several awards including the City University Faculty Research Award and from 1983 through 1984, held a Fellowship for College Teachers from the National Endowment of the Humanities. From 1982 through 1985 and again from 1992 through 1995, Professor Petersen served on the Board of Directors of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania. From 1979 through 1981, he served on the Advisory Board, Anthropology Section of the New Academy of Sciences. He is a Fellow of the American Anthropological Association.

Ross Prizzia, Ph.D.
Professor, Public Administration
University of Hawai'i-West Oahu
Hawai'i, United States of America

Building a Viable Business Sector in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Building a viable business sector in the Republic of the Marshall Islands is especially challenging given the environmental, political, and institutional limitations imposed by geography and history. Years of colonization of this traditional society helped to create dependency on foreign aid and imports, with limited development of the domestic resources. As the island nation moves toward developing a sustainable society in an increasingly global market economy, sensitivity to the preservation of the environment and reliance on cultural values such as the strong sense of communal identity will be instrumental in directing economic and social development and change. While historically the public sector has played the dominant role in development of the islands' economy, cooperation with and support of the private sector in bolstering and expanding potential growth industries such as agriculture, fishing and marine enterprises, and specialty tourism appear to hold promise for the future.

Ross Prizzia received his Bachelor of Arts in Social Science in 1964 and his Master of Arts in Political Science in 1966 from the State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand from 1964 to 1966. He was an East-West Center grantee from 1966 to 1971, completing his doctorate at the University of Hawai'i in Political Science with specialization in Comparative Administration.

Ross was appointed Research Director of the University of Hawai'i Research Corporation in conjunction with the University of Hawai'i Department of Planning and Urban Design until 1973 when he founded and became President of Management Planning and Administration Consultants, Inc., a private consulting firm which provides a variety of consultant services to Hawai'i and the Pacific region including Palau, Pohnpei, the Marshall Islands, Thailand, and the Philippines.

In 1975, he was hired at the new University of Hawai'i-West Oahu (UHWO) campus as a consultant and lecturer to develop and teach in the Professional Studies program that included a mix of business and public administration courses. The following year in 1976 he was hired full-time as a professor at UHWO and he has been there till the present.

Ross's teaching and research interests have focused on the interrelationships between public and private sectors in emergent countries and societies in Asia and the Pacific. As a result of this specialization, he has been invited to participate in a number of professional conferences, workshops, and meetings. In 1987, he was selected by Governor John Waihee as a delegate to represent the State of Hawaii at the Guam conference *American Connection: Its Impact on the Economies of the Western Pacific*. The delegation was headed by Senate President, Richard Wong. In 1992, Ross was instrumental in establishing the Pacific Basin Institute of Public Management (PBIPM) at UHWO and became a member of its Steering Committee. In the same year he was invited to provide management training seminars for top and mid-level government officials in the Pacific Islands (Pohnpei and the Marshalls) for the U.S. Department of the Interior. Also in 1992, Ross was invited to present his paper entitled *Employee Involvement in Making Human Resources Productive*, at the first International Conference on Productivity and Market Economy in Moscow, Russia. From 1990 to 1993, Ross assisted the President of Palau Planning Task Force with several projects related to the economy and the environment. In April 1997, Ross was invited by Dr. Seiji Naya, Director of the Department of Business and Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), to be a member of the State of Hawai'i Trade Mission to Thailand.

Ross's most recent publications in his areas of interest include four peer reviewed articles, *Career Development*, *Labor-Management Cooperation*, *Participation Management*, and *Project Management* in the *International Encyclopedia of Public Policy and Administration* by Westview Press, 1997. Ross's revised *Labor-Management Relations Study Guide*, July 1997, was placed on the World Wide Web.

In the Spring of 1998, Ross will be on sabbatical leave in Thailand to work on a project entitled "Government Policy Initiatives and Strategies Expanding the Role of the Private Sector as an Impetus to Economic Development."

Ronald M. Riggs, J.D.
Legal Advisor
U.S. Army, Space and Missile Defense Command
Arlington, Virginia, United States of America

The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll and the Kwajalein Missile Range

The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll operates the Kwajalein Missile Range at Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Army and the Kwajalein Missile Range have a significant mission in the Marshall Islands. This presentation describes that mission, facilities, and current programs at the Kwajalein Missile Range.

Mr. Riggs is the Washington Legal Advisor to the Commanding General, U.S. Army, Space and Missile Defense Command. Mr. Riggs has a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has a Juris Doctor and a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law from the George Washington University. He is a graduate of the Judge Advocate General's Graduate Course in Military Law.

Mr. Riggs is a specialist in International Law. His previous assignments in this field include: Staff Judge Advocate of the 1st Armored Division; Chief, International Law, U.S. Army Europe; International Law Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General; Assistant Legal Advisor and Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Deputy Judge Advocate, NATO SHAPE Support Group; Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Headquarters Vth Corps and Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Headquarters 8th Infantry Division.

Jason Roberts
Ph.D. Candidate in Linguistics, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin, United States of America

Technological Advancement as an Essential Component of a Marshallese Renaissance
Ewor Tarlik Tarar in Boka (the tide never ceases)

The majority of the residents of the Republic of the Marshall Islands are under the age of universal education, which is currently the 8th grade. If transmission of Marshallese culture, values, and language to the youth of the Marshall Islands is an important goal of the country, as the late President Amata Kabua's 1993 work *Customary Titles and Inherent Rights, A General Guideline in Brief*, suggests, then immediate steps must be taken toward that end.

Marshallese are already bombarded with technology; automobiles, television, telephones, are commonplace on the urbanized atolls. Increasingly, computers are being used in various ministries of the government (which is significant when one realizes that the Government of the Marshall Islands is also the nation's largest employer). While many negative effects of technological advancement are immediately evident, even to the casual observer, one effect being the systematic loss of Marshallese values and traditions, one can argue that technological

advancement will be of ultimate benefit to the Marshall Islands. In fact, the use of personal computers among educators in the Marshall Islands has allowed the Marshallese to reclaim some of that which has been lost in the wholesale westernization of the country over the last fifty-plus years.

This paper will focus on the role of modern technology in reviving Marshallese culture as well as the political, economic, and cultural ramifications of the latest technology. Special emphasis will be given to the most current examples and issues in the Marshall Islands, including the desire for textbooks written, designed, and produced by Marshallese, uses of computing facilities on outer islands, steps toward a standardized writing system, etc. The paper will conclude with exploring possibilities and addressing recommendations for the future of technology in the country.

Jason Roberts is completing a Doctorate in Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, with research interests in the languages of Micronesia and Computational Linguistics. In addition to doing linguistic field work on Marshallese, he has worked with the RMI Ministry of Education on various computer issues. He was associate editor of the special *Marshall Islands Focus* edition of *Pacific Island Focus*.

Keith J. Roberts, Ph.D.
Assistant to the President
Brigham Young University, Hawai'i
Laie, Hawai'i, United States of America

***The Republic of the Marshall Islands/Brigham Young University-Hawai'i
Degree Completion Program for Mature Professionals***

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) entered into an agreement with the Brigham Young University-Hawaii (BYUH) as the result of the study of manpower needs in the government. The agreement provided for a degree completion program for mid-career professionals in the Ministry of Education (MOE). The Ministry of Education defined the participants based upon criteria that was jointly set by the Ministry and the University. The participants were all in positions that required the kinds of skills that are provided in a masters degree in administrative leadership. But, since none of them had bachelors degrees, and the unique nature of working in an emerging nation with multinational agreements made the understanding of the political nature of the educational endeavor necessary, a BA in political science was selected as the vehicle in which to construct the degree completion program. It satisfied all of the need for public management and policy understanding along with a component in political inquiry which was cast as action research for the cohort.

A total of twenty-two eligible students were in the project. There were also seventeen who started in Fall of 1992 and another five who started the following year. Feedback from the Ministry has been positive regarding improvement in work habits and competence. One of the cohort is now working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The others are still with the Ministry

of Education. As of the December Commencement of 1996 a total of seventeen of the original cohort of twenty-two graduated (a success rate of seventy-seven percent).

Dr. Keith J. Roberts is currently the Assistant to the President of Brigham Young University-Hawai'i. His major responsibilities are for strategic planning and institutional research. He has been involved in the RMI/BYUH program since its inception as both an administrator and teacher. Dr. Roberts has held various administrative positions in higher education and has also taught Mathematics, Statistics, Educational and Social Science Research, and Public Policy Analysis. His research interests are in comparative higher education, international education, and college and university outcomes. He is a frequent presenter on higher education at both national and international conferences. Most recently, he delivered the keynote lecture at the National Instructional Learning Technologies Conference in London, England.

Michele Roberts
Graduate Student, School of Social Work
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin, United States of America

From Traditional to Today
A look at the change in roles for the Marshallese Woman and its Social Consequences

The role of Marshallese women on Majuro is rapidly changing, causing a cultural revolution. This revolution is distinct on Majuro because of the intense Western contact that it has experienced. Marshallese women are moving away from the traditional role of mother and peace-keeper toward the role of provider and leader. This move away from the orthodox lifestyle toward the more contemporary is causing many social dilemmas on Majuro, forcing the government and the local people to take a stern look at the benefits and repercussions of change.

As the title indicates, this paper will discuss the change from traditional to modern roles for Marshallese women on Majuro. Traditionally, the Marshallese woman was seen to have five very important roles, thought to bring peace and contentment to the family, clan, and community. These are *Jined il Kobo* (mother or protector of the family), *Lejmanjuri* (peacemaker), *Kora menunak* (benefactress), *Limaro Bikbikir Kolo* (encourager), and *Kora Jelton Bwij* (unifier of lineage). Not only will these roles be defined but also discussed within the broader social structure. The paper will then focus on these five roles as manifested today on Majuro. It will show which are still widely adhered to, which are culturally dead, and the new duties and ideals that have replaced them. Lastly, the paper will provide examples and explanations of the larger social consequences, positive and negative, of these changes and the predicted future direction of related change on Majuro.

Michele Roberts has an undergraduate degree in anthropology, with focus on gender and women's studies, and is completing an Master's of Science in Social Work at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She received grants from the Institute of Polynesian Studies and other organizations to do research, in 1995, on the changing role of the Marshallese woman on Majuro.

While in the Marshall Islands, Michele spent a great deal of time with the Ministry of Social Services and more especially the Department of Women's Affairs. Michele continues to have a social work research interest in the Marshall Islands and plans to do more fieldwork on Majuro.

Karin von Strokirch, Ph.D.
Lecturer in International Relations
University of New England
Armidale, Australia

***Transboundary Trade in Nuclear Waste
Issues for the Marshall Islands***

This paper analyses political and ethical issues in the debate over transboundary disposal of nuclear waste. Scientific and financial considerations in the nuclear waste trade also merit investigation, but for reasons of space and complexity these concerns are not addressed in any depth. Instead, the web of Pacific and international treaties governing hazardous waste disposal are examined to ascertain legal obligations and evolving ethical norms in this domain. This provides a context in which to assess the nature of American regional and international concern over the proposed nuclear waste disposal facility in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). Conclusions can then be drawn as to the potential consequences of this policy if it is pursued by the Marshallese government.

The world is faced with a serious and, to date, intractable problem: how to dispose of long-lived toxic and radioactive waste. Pacific Island states have been targeted to host hazardous waste sites due to their small populations, isolation and limited prospects for economic development. The RMI government has floated several plans for importing hazardous waste over the past decade including radioactive waste, toxic waste and garbage for landfill. To date none have eventuated. The most recent proposal to set up a radioactive waste storage site, which emerged in February 1994, is the most advanced of these schemes. The RMI government's rationale for the nuclear waste proposal is based on several premises, including the fact that several atolls are already contaminated from US atomic tests, and the project would raise much needed revenue.

The RMIs financial concerns are understandable, and a nuclear waste site potentially offers profitable returns to its host, but much is at stake here. Consideration of the waste scheme bodes ill for harmonious relations with the United States. From the outset, the US government adopted a policy of not supporting the Marshallese waste project. Instead of serving as a bargaining chip, the nuclear waste proposal has thus worked against the Marshalls gaining a sympathetic hearing in the lead-up to negotiations over Compact funding. In addition, the prospect of importing nuclear waste to the region has placed the RMI on a diplomatic collision course with its island neighbors. The spirit and the letter of numerous Pacific Island treaties and communiqués have clearly demonstrated the region's aversion to nuclear activities. Finally, the Marshallese initiative poses significant ramifications for global efforts to control the transboundary disposal of nuclear waste. In particular, it runs counter to a trend in international environment law that views the export of

hazardous waste to developing nations as undesirable. If the scheme proceeds, the RMI would set an unfortunate precedent.

Dr. Karin von Strokirch is a lecturer in international relations at the University of New England in New South Wales, Australia. She has previously worked as a researcher at the Australian National University in Canberra. Her doctoral dissertation examined the impact of the French presence and nuclear test program on political, economic and social life in French Polynesia. Dr. von Strokirch has published widely on Pacific Island politics and on nuclear testing and efforts to conclude a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. She writes regularly on these subjects for *The Contemporary Pacific* journal. Her current research focuses on the politics of transboundary disposal of nuclear waste, with particular reference to the Pacific.

Ashok N. Vaswani, M.D.

Medical Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory
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Medical Needs of the Marshallese Community

The Medical Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory has provided medical care to a group of Marshallese who were exposed to the acute fallout in 1954. For the past twelve years, a team of physicians and support staff have made semi-annual trips to the Marshall Islands to provide primary care to the exposed and control individuals. These select individuals have received high quality medical care, which may be considered an amalgam of "primary care delivered by a group of specialists." Concurrently, the medical care for the general Marshallese public has been attempting to keep pace with the perceived needs of the population, tempered by the spiraling cost of modern day medicine.

While the population generally enjoys good health, the "baby boomers" are entering a mature stage and may be responsible for increased health-care costs over the next few decades. Their diseases and requirements are not unique, and are quite typical of the medical disorders encountered in developing nations. However, the challenges that must be surmounted must include an improved health awareness of the public to diseases that are indigenous to the population, and a parallel growth of the local support system. It should be possible to balance the medical needs and provide adequate care in cooperation with the population. Many strategies are available to permit the country towards self sufficiency and independence in controlling the ultimate direction of the health care system.

Ashok N. Vaswani received his medical degree from the University of Bombay, India. He trained in Internal Medicine at the Nassau County Medical Center in New York. He completed a Fellowship in Endocrinology & Metabolism at Yale University Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut, and a second year at the University of Vermont, in Burlington. He remained as a Clinical Associate Physician for the CRC in Burlington for one year. He joined the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at Winthrop-University Hospital, serving there for 18 years. He is currently Medical Director, Marshall Islands Medical Program at Brookhaven National

Laboratory. He also has a private practice in Garden City. His interests focus on body composition related to osteoporosis, obesity and thyroid disease. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Endocrinology & Metabolism, and a Specialist in Clinical Nutrition. His recent publications include *Radical Differences in Total Body Fat as Determined by Total Body Carbon*, published along with co-authors J.F. Aloia, J. Wang and R.N. Pierson in the Third International Body Composition Symposium in Sweden, 1996; *Aging in Women: the Four Component Model of Body Composition*, with JF Aloia and E. Flaster in *Metabolism*, 1996; and *The Osteopenias, Rickets and Allied Disorders* in *Principles of Orthopaedic Practice*, 2nd edition.

James A. Walker, Ph.D.
Chief Historian
U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command
Arlington, Virginia, United States of America

Forging A Partnership

Forging a Partnership is a narrative history of American military interests in the Marshall Islands since 1904, with a focus on the U.S. Army's new partnership with the Marshall's since 1959. The presentation will discuss the search for a suitable location to conduct anti-ballistic missile testing and development of testing facilities in the Marshall Islands. It suggests, that since 1959, there has occurred an evolution in the relationship that has been beneficial to both the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the U.S. Army.

Dr. James A. Walker is the chief historian of the U.S. Army's Space and Missile Defense Command, headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy from Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for which he wrote a dissertation entitled *Desperate Gamble: The Decision to Reinforce the Philippines*. Dr. Walker's Bachelor and Master degrees are from Old Dominion University.

His publications include *Strategic Defense: Four Decades of Progress*, numerous articles, and presentations at the Society of American Military Historians and Army Historian Conferences. Dr. Walker is currently writing a monograph on the role of the U.S. Army in the Marshall Islands.

Dr. Walker's professional work experience includes contract and negotiating experience with Motorola Communications and Electronics, Inc. and later work with the U.S. Army in the logistics arena. This experience has permitted a non-traditional approach to problem solving to include pioneering computer applications for archival organizations and the development of logistics lessons learned for Depot Operations in Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Dr. Walker served in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps, including service in the Vietnam conflict. Among his awards are various military awards, commander's awards, achievement awards, and superior service civilian awards. Academic honors include the Douglas MacArthur Statesman Scholarship and nomination to Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society.

Dr. Walker currently resides in Guntersville, Alabama, with his wife Carolyn. They have two sons, Jeremy, an engineering student, and James II, who serves with the U.S. Army.

Deborah A. Williams
Vice President, Microstate Network, Inc.

Networking for Self-Sufficiency
Options for the Future of RMI

The advent of the World Wide Web has opened a wide range of development options to isolated regions and islands which were not previously available. Since 1994, the Microstate Network has been studying island-based and island-centric development initiatives that utilize the Internet. These initiatives have ranged from education, to health, to development coordination and beyond.

In their presentation, Mitch Leventhal and Deborah Williams will discuss various approaches that have emerged both within Micronesia and beyond, and will then contextualize these approaches and opportunities to the Marshallese case. The presentation includes online visits to numerous island web initiatives.

Deborah Williams is Vice President of Microstate Network, Inc. She has lived and worked in the Kwajalein Atoll from 1989 to 1997. Her professional experiences in Micronesia include the implementation and management of adult and community education programs providing academic, computer and vocational training to the Marshallese and American populations of the atoll, volunteer work in Ebeye schools, grant writing and program development for education in both the RMI and the FSM, and contract management for the logistics contract at the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll. Ms. Williams is a specialist in Internet development and integration, and spearheaded a number of Micronesian based Internet initiatives which increase resource bases for education, and public and private sector management, and enhance quality discourse and communications relative to the sustainable development of Micronesia. Ms. Williams holds a Master's degree in Public Administration, and Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Philosophy from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is keenly interested in economic development of small states, and the role that technology plays in such development.

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U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources Washington, DC 20515

Statement of Rep. George Miller (CA)
 From Dependency to Freedom:
 A Symposium Charting the Future of the Marshall Islands
 Hofstra University
 October 3, 1997

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LLOYD A. JONES
 CHIEF OF STAFF
 ELIZABETH MC CONNOR
 CHIEF COUNSEL
 JOHN LAWRENCE
 DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Hofstra University Cultural Center for sponsoring this event, A Symposium Charting the Future of the Marshall Islands and specifically Mr. Patrick Mahoney, Symposium Director, for his efforts during the past several months in coordinating today's program.

Such an extensive and impressive assembly of United States and Marshall Islands government officials, international scholars and experts has never before come together to discuss the wide array of issues facing the future of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). This forum will provide those with a common interest in working with the Marshall Islands to attain greater self-sufficiency with a unique opportunity to exchange and obtain a wide breadth of information.

Charting the future of the Marshall Islands is the focus of today's symposium. But in addition to discussing the future, it is important to recognize how far the Marshallese people have already come in terms of working toward a healthy and growing economy, providing needed services to the people, and progressively and innovatively addressing the legacy of the US nuclear weapons testing program.

As a result of the United States nuclear weapons testing program, several islands in the RMI were contaminated with radioactive fallout, and hundreds of civilians were exposed to radiation. All information related to the testing program was shrouded in secrecy by the US government, and dosage levels and other known information about the health affects of radiation were withheld from the public -- including the individuals who were exposed to the fallout. Because information about their health and safety was denied to them, many Marshallese citizens developed a mistrust of the United States. The United States has since initiated programs to mitigate the health affects and environmental damages caused by the testing program. However, adverse affects from the nuclear weapons testing program continue to be seen and felt today, many years later.

As outlined in The Compact of Free Association (Public Law 99-239), the United States pledged to assist the Marshall Islands with its development, economic and social needs, and to address the health and environmental effects of the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing Program. Toward that end, the United States has granted funds to the Marshall Islands for economic assistance, infrastructure development and education programs. The United States also has established trust

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funds for the resettlement of affected atolls, instituted federal and local health care programs to address radiological illnesses for those affected by the testing program, and provided compensation payments to residents of the affected atolls. Since the enactment of the Compact in 1985, I have worked in Congress to make sure that both the United States and the Marshall Islands fully live up to their responsibilities.

The people of the RMI have actively worked to recover from the nuclear testing program by undertaking innovative environmental remediation programs, promoting greater economic development, and supplementing the federal health care program with local resources. I commend the people of Enewetak atoll who have demonstrated determination and a creative spirit in finding new techniques to address the contamination of their land while increasing food production. The people have worked, with expert guidance, to successfully elevate the level of nutrients in their soil and have increased the local food production, while improving the overall condition of the land.

On a related note, just last week, the US House of Representatives passed legislation extending the Enewetak Food and Agriculture program for five years, and providing enough assistance for the atoll's growing population. This needed extension will allow the residents of Enewetak to continue to receive safe, imported food as well as nutrition and agriculture rehabilitation assistance, to supplement local efforts. This extension will allow the continuation of the Food and Agriculture program so that the Enewetak can safely live in their homeland atoll, despite the remaining high levels of radiation.

Over the past few years, significant efforts toward economic progress and development in the RMI have occurred. However, while I want to see the Marshall Islands achieve greater economic independence, occasional reports that some in the government are considering the siting of a nuclear waste storage facility on the islands are of great personal concern. Although such a facility may seem alluring due to its potential for short-term financial benefit, I firmly believe that a nuclear waste site would have lasting adverse affects upon the residents of the RMI, the environment and the future relationship between the RMI and the United States. As a result of the US nuclear testing program, environmental contamination and adverse health affects in the islands have occurred, and remediation efforts address the contamination continue. If the RMI government now were to support the entry and storage of additional sources of radiation into its boundaries, it would be difficult for many of my colleagues to continue to support the continuing activities of the United States to address current and remaining radiation problems.

I always have advocated the disclosure of all information relating to the nuclear testing program. Congress, the government of the Marshall Islands, and the public must be able to scrutinize all relevant materials to ensure that appropriate steps have been and will continue to be taken to

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address the affects of the nuclear testing program. Complete disclosure will ensure that the secrecy that cloaked the aftermath of the testing program no longer exists, and will address any lingering mistrust between the United States and the Marshallese citizens. In 1994, at my request, the Departments of Energy and Defense began to declassify tens of thousands of pages of relevant documents. While declassification has been a time-consuming process, it is important that this information continue to be made available to the government and citizens of the Marshall Islands and the US. If the documents reveal new details about the nuclear testing program that were not previously available, Congress will need to take a serious look at this information in the context of continuing relations with the Marshall Islands.

In the coming years, the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands will enter into negotiations to determine what form our future relationship will take. While it is impossible to predict the outcome of those discussions, much of the information gleaned at today's symposium, and many of the contacts established, are likely to be important sources of knowledge in the future.

**THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE
MARSHALL ISLANDS
FROM DEPENDENCY TO FREEDOM: WHAT THE FUTURE
HOLDS**

Thank you for your introduction. I am pleased to be here today on this beautiful Hofstra University campus.

At the outset, let me thank all of you who have made this symposium possible -- organizers, contributors and participants. I am gratified as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), to see this conference focus on one of America's closest friends. I believe my colleague the Marshall Island's distinguished Foreign Minister Phillip Muller is also pleased. The United States enjoys a special relationship with the Marshall Islands; it is one of only three countries in the world where we enjoy a relationship of free association.

The theme of today's discussions is ambitious, "FROM DEPENDENCY TO FREEDOM: CHARTING THE FUTURE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS". I look forward to hearing your thoughts concerning the past, the present and particularly, the future of the RMI. I subscribe to Oscar Wilde's pronouncement on the future -- "There" he says, "is where the

artists are.” I am confident looking around the room at this distinguished gathering that we will be exploring the future, not only as students, researchers and policy makers, but also as artists with sensitivity to both our cultures and values and with creative glimpses into the future. This is particularly important since there are those in the RMI and in the U.S. who do not believe the state of dependency can or should be shifted. I am not one of such thinkers.

Micronesian Islanders, including Marshallese, have proven to be great adapters to change, For example, America’s first contacts with the islands began with visits by whalers and later included the settlement of missionaries by the mid-19th century. By the late 19th century the Germans, British and Spanish began to compete for influence in the region and more change became apparent. By 1885, the Marshall Islands were under German administration, The end of World War I in the 20th century brought the League of Nations’ mandate for Japanese administration of the area.

During World War II, the Americans came in force. In 1944, following intense fighting on Kwajalein and Enewetak, the United States took control of the Marshall Islands. Later, under United Nations trusteeship, the United States became the trustee and worked out over time, in partnership with the

RMI what was to become independence in free association with the United States.

Lessons from World War II led the United States to assure its national security and the security of the free world through its interactions in Europe with the Marshall Plan and in the Asia Pacific, through its relationships with the Japanese, Koreans, other allies and friends including the Micronesian islanders. The onset of the cold war convinced us that we also had to maintain primacy in weaponry. We embarked on a series of nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands to assure the security of free and democratic nations. I know that there are a few who believe that the sacrifices of the Marshallese--and here I am talking about the nuclear legacy--have not been fully recognized by the United States.

Under the Compact we have accepted full responsibility for the health and environmental damages caused by the U.S. Nuclear Testing Program. As a part of our effort to take responsibility we have provided over half a billion dollars in compensation to the RMI for the U.S. nuclear testing program. This compensation has covered expenses for land usage, relocation, rehabilitation, resettlement, health care and food support. If you are interested in some detail, this is covered in an Appendix to my speech.

There are some in the Marshall Islands who believe that circumstances have changed since 1986 and that the U.S. owes more. Under the Compact of Free Association, the U.S. and RMI agreed that full settlement of the nuclear legacy had occurred and that the RMI may submit a request for additional compensation to the U.S. Congress should evidence of changed circumstances come to light. Section 177 of the Compact -- the section that describes how to address the nuclear legacy, established a path for us to resolve this issue. If the RMI submits a claim to Congress for additional compensation the U. S. Government will give full consideration to the request.

Let me turn now to our basic agreement between the United States and the RMI - the Compact of Free Association. Some elements of the Compact are coming up for renegotiation and folks are wondering, what happens next.

There is an old saying, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." The U.S. and RMI, however, negotiated the road. It is the Compact of Free Association. And the Compact spells out where we agreed the RMI is going. The present relationship between the Marshalls and the

United States rests on this strong foundation and there is much to build on for the future.

Many of you, I trust, will be taking a close look at the Compact which defines the present relationship between our two countries. It is a unique relationship, in which the Marshall Islands is self-governing and closely associated with the United States. The Compact also guarantees reciprocal privileges, such as those in immigration and official representation, and grants important rights to each country, such as the maintenance of security interests by the U.S. and participation in U.S. federal programs by the Marshall Islands.

The Compact of Free Association had several goals; three of which I want to highlight:

- First, to confirm the autonomy of the Marshall Islands;
- Second, to assure the security of both the Marshall Islands and the United States; and,
- Third, to assist the Republic of the Marshall Islands to reach its goal of economic self-sufficiency for its people.

Let's take a quick look to see how these three goals have been addressed thus far:

Since the implementation of the Compact in 1986, the RMI has been recognized as an independent and sovereign nation. The RMI is a member of the United Nations, an objective we supported. The United States values its close friendship with the Marshall Islands.

In today's world transnational issues frequently dominate individual nations' agendas: these include; the environment, terrorism, trade, international finance and narcotics. Because of our friendship and respect for common values, the United States appreciates the support by the leadership of the Marshall Islands on many tough issues in international fora. The RMI's support on these issues -- such as our mutual interest in UN reform-is very much recognized. We hope that our involvement in issues dear to the Marshall Islands such as climate change is appreciated as well.

Next, the defense commitments in the Compact have ensured the security of the Marshall Islands and during the cold war were useful to the United States.

Let me say a few words about the present-day developments in the RMI.

As all of you aware, 1996 had a sad ending with the death of the Republic's first president, Amata Kabua, in December. He was widely mourned in the region and the world. President Amata Kabua was indeed the modern day father of his country. The RMI parliament has now elected a new president, Imata Kabua, to serve out the term of his deceased cousin Amata. The next elections are scheduled for 1999.

Under the Compact, the United States agreed to assist the Republic of the Marshall Islands in its effort to advance the self-sufficiency of its people. Although the United States will have provided over one billion U.S. dollars in assistance and payments to the RMI by the year 2001, self-sufficiency still seems a distant goal. On a per capita basis, the RMI has received one of the highest levels of assistance (including payments) from the United States government to any country in the world, higher even than that provided to Israel. U.S. assistance amounted to \$2000 for each man, woman and child of the Marshall Islands, per year but recently this number has spiraled downward from \$2000 to close to \$1000 because of population growth. Some of the islanders have questioned what they have to show for it. That is a question

to direct to the leaders of the RMI. The U.S. commitment to help is strong, but the Marshall Islanders too have a responsibility to make the goal of economic self-sufficiency become more of a reality.

Economically, the country faces a dire situation that is testing the new political leadership. Over one-fourth of the fiscal year 1998 budget is obligated to pay off debt servicing requirements. Moreover, the public sector eats up a large quantity of the budget. The private sector faces considerable challenges. High-level politicians express hostility toward foreign entrepreneurs, even Americans, who enjoy reciprocal immigration privileges with Marshallese under the Compact. There is intermittent high-level interference in the work the country's expatriate managers have been hired to do. These actions raise the uncertainty level of many who would seek to invest in or find employment in the Marshall Islands.

In the social realm, the RMI's population growth rate is one of the highest in the world. The population will almost have doubled by 2001 over 1986, the date the Compact was implemented. Per capita income is decreasing.

Unemployment is high. Social services, education and health services all face extreme pressures. There are naysayers who

think the Marshall Islands can never achieve any degree of self-sufficiency.

We do not agree with the naysayers. There are problems but, there are positive things to report. The country's leaders are working with the Asian Development Bank to implement a public sector reform program. The program will shift emphasis from public to private sector growth if it is fully implemented. Some belt-tightening steps are underway to reduce the number of public sector employees. Some costly government subsidies have been eliminated or reduced. A realistic shore-based fisheries industry policy is nearing the implementation stage, a tuna loining facility may begin operations in the spring of 1998, and a new drydock facility, already in operation, holds promise for servicing the shipping repair needs of the Marshalls and neighboring countries.

Finally, let me turn to the future. What does it hold, I am not a futurologist but let me sketch some possibilities:

- It is likely that our countries will continue to be freely associated.
- I can tell you with more certainty that the United States will continue to provide for the security of the Marshall

Islands under the terms of an existing mutual security agreement.

- In October 1999, the United States will be prepared to sit down and negotiate with the Marshall Islands as required in the Compact. We will discuss with the Marshallese the economic assistance provisions in Title two of the Compact and elsewhere in Public Law 99-239 and subsidiary agreements to the Compact.
- It is likely the U.S. federal budget will continue to decrease and the United States will be looking carefully at its own fiscal resources as we examine ways to efficiently promote the long-term economic growth of the Marshall Islands.
- I can tell you that the emphasis the United States government places on trade and private investment, rather than aid as the engine of economic growth, will form much of the discussions. Secretary Albright has noted that the question is not one of trade versus aid, but rather the right kind of aid for trade.

On this last note, trade, not aid, let me share a few thoughts, again, thoughts I hope you will find useful in these sessions.

It is admittedly difficult for a small island developing nation, such as the Marshall Islands, to compete in the global economy, but the Marshalls do have some advantages. These are in part:

- it uses the U.S. dollar;
- it has good location in its proximity to Hawaii,
- its people have the right under the compact to live, work, and study in the United States.

The RMI needs to play to its advantages. Overall, economists see a major shift in the importance of trade and private investment. The problem is some Pacific islands, and the Marshall Islands in particular, are not profiting from this Pacific dynamism. The Marshall Islanders have to help themselves, but the United States is willing to assist.

The U.S. could complement Marshallese economic reform by:

- helping to develop markets for Marshallese exports;

- providing economic assistance targeted more toward stimulating private sector investment;
- supplying the technical expertise to help the Marshallese gain both foreign and local investor confidence through ending the aid-dependency syndrome and assuring investors -- both foreign and local -- that there will be transparent and reliable Marshallese laws relating to commercial interests, including contract dispute resolution, and an independent judiciary to enforce the laws.

I hope this conference focuses on two key questions: "What kind of a future do the Marshallese want"? And "what kind of a future are they willing to work toward achieving"? With those answers, all of us in this room, Marshallese and Americans alike, can best tailor the programs, assistance, and agreements for which the Compact provides an existing framework. If the stated goal of economic self reliance is real, then there is much that the Marshall Islanders can do for themselves.

A dilemma all of us face is finding the best ways to draw back and let the Marshallese people decide their own priorities. The Marshallese, on their side, if they wish outside assistance,

need to articulate where they wish to go and give signs they are committed to getting there. If the RMI really wants to increase trade, stimulate private investment, and seek the economic self-sufficiency the Compact aspires to, the United States government is willing to work closely together to build that private sector led economic bridge into the twenty-first century. I am confident that some of the paving of that bridge, if not parts of the foundation, will be spelled out in the papers many of you will be presenting today.

My best wishes for a productive and stimulating conference. I look forward to joining you in the sessions. Thank you and komol tata.

Appendix

What the U.S. has done since the nuclear testing.

We have ACCEPTED FULL RESPONSIBILITY: Under Section 177 of the U.S.-RMI Compact of Free Association (P.L. 99-239, enacted October 1986) and its subsidiary agreements, the United States accepted full responsibility for the health and environmental damages caused by the U.S. Nuclear Testing Program.

We have PROVIDED OVER HALF A BILLION DOLLARS IN COMPENSATION to the RMI for the U.S. nuclear testing program through Congressional appropriations and federal services, such as the DOE medical health program and USDA surplus food assistance.

We gave:

- **\$150 million** in 1987 to the RMI Government (GRMI) to create a **Trust Fund** for the health care and compensation of nuclear claims for the populations of the four atolls affected by the Nuclear Testing Program -- **Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utirik**. The GRMI established the Trust Fund and a Nuclear Claims Tribunal to adjudicate compensation claims.

Total distributions to be made over 15 years are as follows:

- \$30 million to the GRMI to establish a health care program, in addition to \$1.791 million annually to the RMI for health and medical services;
- \$75 million to the Bikini Distribution Authority for loss or damage to property and person of the people of Bikini;
- \$48.75 million to the Enewetak Distribution Authority for loss or damage to property and person of the people of Enewetak;
- \$37.5 million to the Rongelap Distribution Authority for loss or damage to property and person of the people of Rongelap;
- \$22.5 million to the Utirik Distribution Authority for loss or damage to property and person of the people of Utirik;
- \$500,000 to the Government of the Marshall Islands for the establishment of the Claims Tribunal;
- \$7.5 million to the Claims Tribunal for its operations; and

-- \$45.75 million to the Claims Tribunal for payment of monetary awards to individuals for health and land claims.

In addition the United States provided:

- **\$33.895 million** in 1989 for the rehabilitation and resettlement of Enewetak.
- **\$20,072,000 in agricultural support assistance** for Enewetak, from 1980-96 through the Department of Interior.
- **\$20 million** in 1982 with a later supplement of **\$90 million** for the rehabilitation and resettlement of Bikini.
- **\$1.754 million in food commodities** for Bikini, from 1979-84 through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- **\$3.8 million in food commodities, from 1988-94 through the U.S. Department of Agriculture**, to compensate the four-nuclear affected atolls for decreased agricultural capabilities resulting from the nuclear testing program. **Present annual funding is \$581,000.** Continued assistance over the next five years is likely.

- **Special medical care and treatment** for the radiation-exposed populations -- originally 253 people -- of Rongelap and Utirik. Today, this program is known as the **Department of Energy Marshall Islands Medical Program** and serves 238 people (130 exposed persons and a control group of 107) with the cooperative support of the Departments of Defense and Interior.
- **Environmental and radiological dose assessment monitoring** of the four nuclear-affected atolls through the Department of Energy.



From Dependency to Freedom
A Symposium Charting the Future of the Marshall Islands

"Germany's Relations with the Marshall Islands
- Past, Present and Future" -

Speech by
Ambassador Tono Eitel
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

HOFSTRA University
Hempstead, 3 October 1997

Check against delivery

Germany's Relations with the Marshall Islands - Past, Present and Future

I.

Germany's colonial past is often mentioned in connection with the Marshall Islands, so let us have a closer look at the past. At the end of the 19th century the young German emperor, Wilhelm II, urged that the German Empire, too, should find its "place in the sun". Therefore, in 1899, Germany purchased some Pacific territories from their former colonial master, Spain. These territories are today known as the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Thirteen years before, in 1886, the Marshall Islands had become a German protectorate as a result of a treaty with Great Britain. They remained under self-administration, whereas the other areas were immediately placed under the jurisdiction of the German protectorate of New Guinea. On the Marshall Islands the Germans merely provided basic administrative services, leaving the further development of the territory to those institutions which had already been the driving forces: trading companies and the Churches.

Economic development was entrusted to a German trading house, the Jaluit Kompanie, which mainly promoted production and trade in copra, in which the Marshalls were leaders at that time. However, the Jaluit Kompanie also administered the islands on behalf of the German Empire. Company officials came to the Marshalls with their families to live and work for a few years; some stayed, however, and worked as shipbuilders, harbourmasters and in some cases rose to become plantation owners.

Education was firmly under the control of the Protestant Church, which organized three-year schooling for almost all children. From 1899 onwards German Catholic missionaries arrived, eventually offering six to eight years of schooling; their school on Jaluit, with about eighty pupils, became one of the leading schools in German Micronesia.

This period may be described as a symbiosis between the German traders and the people of the Marshalls, especially the chiefs, one which only marginally affected normal life on the islands. Germany continued its hands-off approach when, in 1906, the post of commissioner was abolished, a regional official was appointed and in this way the incorporation of the Marshalls into the German protectorate of New Guinea was effected. In contrast to other German colonies, there were never any programmes for public works, for the collection of weapons or the pacification of conflicts among chiefs. The Germans also never intervened militarily, nor did they station police forces there for long. On this unproblematic and cordial basis, Germany's presence on the Marshall Islands ended with the onset of the First World War.

II.

More recent relations between Germany and the Marshall Islands date from 1990, a year of historic importance for both countries. On 3 October 1990, today 7 years ago, Germany was reunified. On 22 December 1990, the UN Security Council agreed to lift the islands' Trust Territory status. As early as 23 September 1991 Germany and the Marshalls took up diplomatic relations by signing a protocol to this effect. Since then Germany has been represented on the Marshalls by its ambassador in Manila, and the Marshall Islands in Germany by their embassy in Washington, D.C.

Development cooperation is increasingly changing from bilateral aid to cooperation between regional organizations, in which the European Union works together closely with the Pacific regional bodies, in particular with the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Commission. About 30 % of the European Union resources for this cooperation come from Germany.

In other areas, too, there is a tendency towards multilateralization and globalization. This especially applies to smaller countries and concerns economic interdependence just as much as environmental protection, the fight against international terrorism and cross-border crime, and the preservation of peace.

Like Germany, the Marshall Islands are a member of several international organizations, foremost among them the United Nations where both our countries are represented and thus have a regular point of contact. As we all know, the UN plays a major role in shaping relations between peoples

and countries on the basis of equality and self-determination. It is a forum for cooperation in solving international problems: in particular, the member states have pledged to resolve their conflicts by peaceful means in order to safeguard world peace and security. Within the UN the Security Council is mainly responsible for preserving that peace.

The changing world in which we live also demands changes and reforms within the UN. Germany, like the Marshall Islands, strongly advocates such reforms. Indeed, Germany is prepared to assume its international responsibility resulting from reunification in 1990 by taking a permanent seat on the Security Council. In order to do this, however, it must persuade the other UN member states, including the Marshalls, to give their approval.

The fact that we all live on one and the same planet has in recent years increased our awareness that we must tackle environmental problems in concert. For this reason the Marshall Islands are a member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which calls attention to the specific problems affecting these countries. One major issue is global warming and the resulting rise in ocean levels which threatens the very existence of Pacific island nations, including the Marshalls. As one of the principal motors behind global environment protection Germany, together with the island nations, is continuing efforts to formulate a binding protocol aimed at reducing carbon-dioxide emissions.

In addition to man-made threats to the environment, the island nations face often huge natural disasters. During the German colonial period, especially in 1905, typhoons swept across the islands, claiming many victims and destroying livelihoods. Germany fully sympathizes with this special problem, not merely as a result of this historical experience, and it strongly urges that an efficient early-warning system be set up.

As announced at the first conference on the problems of small island countries in Barbados, Germany has financed a study on a regional system in an attempt to find an effective way of protecting against natural disasters. While such mechanisms cannot prevent catastrophes, early warning can allow countermeasures to be taken in good time. The study has already shown initial successes which can, I hope, soon benefit the Marshall Islands, too. Let me add that Germany is closely cooperating with the AOSIS (Association of Small Island States) of which the Marshall

Islands are a prominent member in the efforts to improve world wide climate through a reduction of CO2 pollution.

In economic terms, it is particularly difficult for an island nation like the Marshalls to keep pace. It must create the conditions to enable it to satisfy at least the basic needs of its people, i.e. health care, a good education and jobs. A country cannot survive if it merely imports goods without itself producing and exporting. It is overstretched when everything is in state hands and must be financed from the public budget, and where there are no incentives for the private sector. The Marshall Islands are now facing the task of solving these huge problems, but they do not lack support; the Asian Development Bank, the IMF and UN organizations such as the UNDP have sent advisers to the government. Germany welcomes this assistance.

III.

Today's world is becoming less of a collection of individual countries and more of a world of regions. Since 1958 Germany has been an integral part of the European Economic Community, the EEC, which over the years has become the European Union. The original Six have turned into the Fifteen, and purely economic integration has yielded to comprehensive cooperation. This seeks to create not only a European single market but also a single currency, the Euro; it is establishing a common foreign and security policy and promoting greater cooperation in justice and home affairs.

Since 1967 we have seen the creation and expansion of another regional organization neighbouring the Pacific - the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), whose aim is to promote political, economic and social cooperation between its member states.

I could name further examples of regional associations; all are not the products of coincidence but of the recognition that problems can be better and more easily solved together, and that associations encourage economic and social development, thus contributing to the prosperity of the member nations and their peoples.

The Marshall Islands are members of the South Pacific Forum, as are almost all the Pacific island nations. Germany welcomes the fact that this association has come about, and that the

organization of the South Pacific Forum has been streamlined. This represents a major development potential for this region. Germany is willing to draw on its European regional experience in order to assist the further evolution of the Pacific regional organization.

In 1914, when the Germans left the Marshall Islands, the First World War began. Even in those days war was an awful prospect, although at that time there was nothing like the weapons of mass destruction available today, some of which were tested on the Marshall Islands. For this reason the prevention of war and the preservation of humankind is a major political aim, one upon which Germany and the Marshalls agree, and we will continue to cooperate in achieving it.

In the final analysis we need to intensify bilateral relations between our two countries, promote the exchange of ideas and cultures, and motivate the private sector to play a larger role to our mutual benefit. Only knowledge of each other can lead to intensive and unreserved relations and thus take us away from the superficial kind of links which may have existed between colony and colonial power many years ago.

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY - HAWAII
DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM FOR MATURE
PROFESSIONALS**

Presented at

FROM DEPENDENCY TO FREEDOM

A Symposium Charting the Future of the Marshall Islands

by

**Miles Kawatachi
Consultant to the Ministry of Education
Republic of the Marshall Islands**

and

**Keith Roberts
Assistant to the President
Brigham Young University-Hawaii**

at

Hofstra University

October 3, 1997

The Republic of the Marshall Islands/Brigham Young University- Hawaii Degree Completion Program for Mature Professionals

Miles Kawatachi and Keith Roberts

Education

Education in the Marshall Islands developed after World War II using the education of the United States as a model. It has evolved into a system of seventy-six elementary schools, one intermediate school, two high schools and one community college. This is in contrast with the Pacific Island nation in the southern hemisphere which have been influenced more by the British system of education.

Formal education is relatively new to the Marshall Islands. American missionaries from the Boston Missionary Society provided formal schooling by establishing church schools only 140 years ago, in 1857. Previous to that time there was no formal schooling in the Marshall Islands as youth learned skills and attitudes by direct involvement with the family and community. Although both Germany and Japan controlled the Marshall Islands during the early part of this century, the predominant influences on Marshallese formal schooling have been the various missionary groups, the Peace Corps and several departments of the United States government.

This short heritage of formal schooling was inherited by the Ministry of Education when the Republic of the Marshall Islands was founded in 1979. In the years since then, the government has attempted to move toward self-sufficiency. Education is critical to the success of this potentially self-sufficient nation and therefore the nature of and quality of the employees of the Ministry are important to the future of the nation.

In the late 1980's a manpower needs assessment was completed for the Ministry of Education. This paper will address the progress of the Ministry in meeting one portion of those needs; the needs of mid managers and specialists.

It was identified that most mid managers in the Ministry of Education did not possess a bachelors degree. This paper addresses how an agreement between the Ministry of Education and an American University has moved

the nation closer to the goal of educating these professionals.

The Cohort

Success Factor 1: Joint Planning

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) entered into an agreement with Brigham Young University-Hawaii (BYUH) as the result of the above mentioned study of manpower needs in the government. The agreement provided for a degree completion program for mid-career professionals in the Ministry of Education (MOE). The Ministry defined the participants based upon criteria that was jointly set by the Ministry and the University. All of the participants (referred to in this paper as cohort 1) were in supervisory or managerial positions above that of principal. They all had at least two years of college, many had three. The majority of their course work was in education.

The Program

Success factor 2: Curriculum that responds to the real needs of the student but is still identifiable to the greater community.

The members of Cohort 1 were all in positions that required the kinds of skills that are provided in a masters degree in administrative leadership. But, since none of them had bachelors degrees, a through review of their transcripts was undertaken by the BYUH faculty and administrative staff to determine the nature of the program to be offered. This transcript review showed that the majority of the participants had as many education credits as they would need for a bachelors degree in education but they did not have many of the general education credits. It was determined by the transcript reviewers that the participants did not need additional courses in pedagogy but rather courses in management and leadership. In addition, the unique nature of an emerging nation with multinational agreements made the understanding of the political nature of the educational endeavor necessary.

This led to the BA in political science as the vehicle in which to construct the degree completion program. It satisfied all of the needs for public management and policy understanding along with a component in political inquiry which was cast as action research for the cohort.

The Structure

Success factor 3: University mission consistent with Ministry needs.

BYUH is an appropriate institution for this project because the founding trustee of the Hawaii Campus, David O. McKay, stated in 1955:

"From this school will go forth men and women whose influence will be felt for good towards establishing peace internationally."

This statement has guided the university in the years that have followed. It was important to consider the nature of the university in developing the program. The university is owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it is a university whose mission is to serve the people of Asia and the Pacific. And, it prides itself in the cultural diversity of the campus. One of the phrases often used to describe BYUH is "harmony amid diversity." This led the Ministry and the University to jointly agree upon the following components of the program; First, all participants must spend a semester on campus. This was necessary so that they would experience the diversity of 2,000 students from approximately 60 countries working and studying together. Second, the participants will satisfy exactly the same requirements as all other students majoring in political science. Third, the religious nature of the university expected that the participants would take religion courses along with the other academic courses. And finally, the unique nature of BYUH required a strict moral behavior and dress standard including abstinence from alcohol, coffee, and cigarettes while on campus. This was amenable to all involved and provided the cohort with opportunities for growth on both personal and professional levels.

The Faculty

Success factor 4: Knowledgeable and dedicated faculty.

The Pacific Islands are not new to the faculty of BYUH. Since its inception it has had faculty with special interests or experiences in the Pacific. Many have served Mormon missions in the various nations in and bordering the Pacific. In addition, several faculty have been political governmental leaders in the Pacific. At the time of the initiation of this project, the Institute for Polynesian Studies at BYUH was headed by the former Governor of Easter Island. In addition, the former Minister of Culture of

the Cook Islands was and continues to be a faculty member in the Political Science department and has taught the majority of students in cohort 1. The editor of the well respected Pacific Studies Journal is a Professor in Political Science at BYUH and has been involved in each of the summer programs taught on Majuro. The most recent appropriate addition to the BYUH faculty is a folklorist specializing in Marshallese folklore. He taught the humanities course in the program.

The Administration

Success factor 5: A caring, humane administrative arraignment.

The program was administered through the BYUH division of continuing education so that there could be a personalized treatment of each student both on campus and in Majuro. The division is administered by a Native Hawaiian who has an understanding of islanders and a sense of caring that supported each cohort member when he or she came to campus. Each cohort member was also interviewed by a Mormon Bishop who was a Pacific Islander. In addition, the consultant to the Ministry of Education who served as a liaison between the Ministry and the university was a resident of Hawaii and available to both the Ministry and the university. It is important to note that both of these individuals (the division head and the consultant) spent their personal time and personal resources doing super human efforts to insure the success of the project.

The Delivery

Success factor 6 Flexibility.

The program was delivered in two locations; The BYUH campus in Laie, Hawaii and the Ministry of Education in Majuro, RMI. The MOE rented a house near the BYUH campus and three or four members of the cohort attended class full time each semester. The full-time on campus was an integral and necessary part of the program. While on campus the participants took 17 credits and participated in student life as regular undergraduates. After completing the semester on campus, they completed an internship back in Majuro under the supervision of a professor of political science from BYUH.

The additional instruction needed to complete the degree was offered each summer according to the students' needs. Each winter the BYUH representatives would meet with the consultant from the Ministry of

Education and determine which courses had to be offered the following summer in order to satisfy the needs of the most participants. Transcripts were continuously monitored and courses offered so that the maximum number of students could progress toward graduation.

A special interdisciplinary course called "Politics in Education" was developed and offered in Majuro specifically for this cohort and has been so successful that it is now part of the regular offerings of the University.

All students were required to take a course in political inquiry which was offered in Majuro and involved the cohort in action research. In addition, the cohort developed projects that were completed and published as a special issue of "Pacific Island Focus."

The Student's Program

A typical program is outlined below. Each semester three new members of the cohort rotate from Majuro to BYUH. The on campus experience is customized for each member of the cohort when he or she studies on campus. The components of the program are listed below;

Component 1: Typical on campus program at BYUH campus, Laie.

 Nine credits in political science

 Six credits in arts and sciences

 Two credits in religion

Component 2: Internship in Majuro supervised by BYUH faculty via daily and weekly logs/journals.

Component 3: Two credits in religion offered in Majuro by LDS missionaries.

Component 4: Courses taught in Majuro by regular BYUH faculty during each summer of the program. These courses were selected according to the needs of the students as determined by transcript reviews. The courses offered each summer are listed below:

 1993: One course was offered.

 Politics in Education

 1994: Three courses were offered.

Political Inquiry
Political Science Elective
English

1995: Four courses were offered.

Politics in Education
Political Science Elective
Biology
Humanities

1996: Three courses were offered.

Political Inquiry/Special Topic in Political Science
Political Science Elective

Component 5: History courses were offered in Majuro by BYUH adjunct faculty.

Component 6: Computer workshops that satisfied the BYUH computer requirement for graduation were offered through the Ministry of Education during the summers of 1995 and 1996.

Component 7: Research project (either individual or group) that was publishable in the student publication: Pacific Island Focus.

Component 8: An articulation agreement between BYUH and CMI was signed so that certain courses that were offered at CMI could be included in this program. As a result, several members of the cohort took courses at the College of the Marshall Islands to fulfill lower division requirements.

The Results

The results will be discussed on two levels. First, we will discuss some of the product outcomes of the project. Second, we will discuss the general statistics regarding the participants.

During the summer of 1995 the participants developed a "vision" of education in the Marshall Islands and from that vision developed the following statement to describe the mission of the Ministry of Education; "Building a sustainable community by involving parents, students, teachers and the community as a whole in collaborative efforts to develop a healthy and educated society."

Each member of the class then examined the bureaucratic activities that they were involved in and tried to restructure them so that they were working toward the goal identified in the above statement.

In the summer of 1994 the members of the political inquiry class conducted a study that examined the social distance between Marshallese and various ethnic groups living on Majuro. The results of this research, *Ethnicity and Social Distance in the Marshall Islands*, were presented at the "Ethnicity and Multiple Ethnicity" conference at BYUH in May of 1995.

A research study, *A Comparison of Private and Public Grade Schools on Majuro Atoll*, was initiated as the result of accepted wisdom regarding the superiority of private schools in RMI. Both survey data and statistical data were used. The researchers found that student performance measures do not support the superiority for all private schools.

A group of participants in cohort 1 were concerned about Marshallese Parents Involvement in Their Children's Education. They developed a survey which was administered to approximately one hundred parents. The conclusion of this research was that the schools themselves can do more to communicate with parents.

Several of the cohort 1 participants conducted an Assessment of the Attitude and Background of Science Teachers in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. This study found that although the elementary school teachers may think science is an important subject in school they, as teachers, have little or no college level education in science.

Another group was interested in How to Improve Outer-Island Grade Schools. It was evident from performance data that the outer-island students were doing poorly compared to the students from schools in the urban centers. The researchers interviewed teachers on these outer-islands and as a result made five specific recommendations for improving these schools.

One of the project participant asked; Have the High School Entry Skills in the Republic of the Marshall Islands Declined for the Past Five Years? His answer was yes and he has made specific recommendation regarding this decline.

There evolved two overall themes to the discussions and processes of the project. The first theme had to do with a sustainable community. This was addressed earlier in the paper. The second theme had to do with striking a balance between Marshallese traditional culture and modernity. As a result, Marshallese Understanding of the Clan System was considered by many of our group to be critical to maintaining Marshallese culture. One member of the cohort chose to examine this. He found that knowledge of the clan system decreased with younger respondents. The group understood that this finding has serious implications for schools.

A total of 22 eligible students were in cohort 1. There were 17 who started in Fall of 1992 and another 5 who started the following year. Feedback from the MOE has been positive regarding improvement in work habits and competence. One of the members of cohort 1 is now working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The others are still with the Ministry of Education. As of the December commencement of 1996 a total of seventeen of the original cohort of twenty-two have graduated (a success rate of 77%.)

Seven of the seventeen graduates are now in higher placed positions than when they began the program. (This represents a promotion rate of 41%.) These graduates now have such titles as ; Director of Teacher Training, Chair of RMI Language Committee, Assistant Commissioner of Public Service, Deputy U.N. Ambassador, and Director-Area Supervisor.

The project has also been beneficial to BYUH. It has Allowed a more mature student to come to campus and share with the younger students. It has also given the Marshallese a more obvious presence on campus which, in turn, draws more attention to Micronesia in general and that, in turn, expands the scope of the campus interests, activities, discussions, perceptions and attitudes.

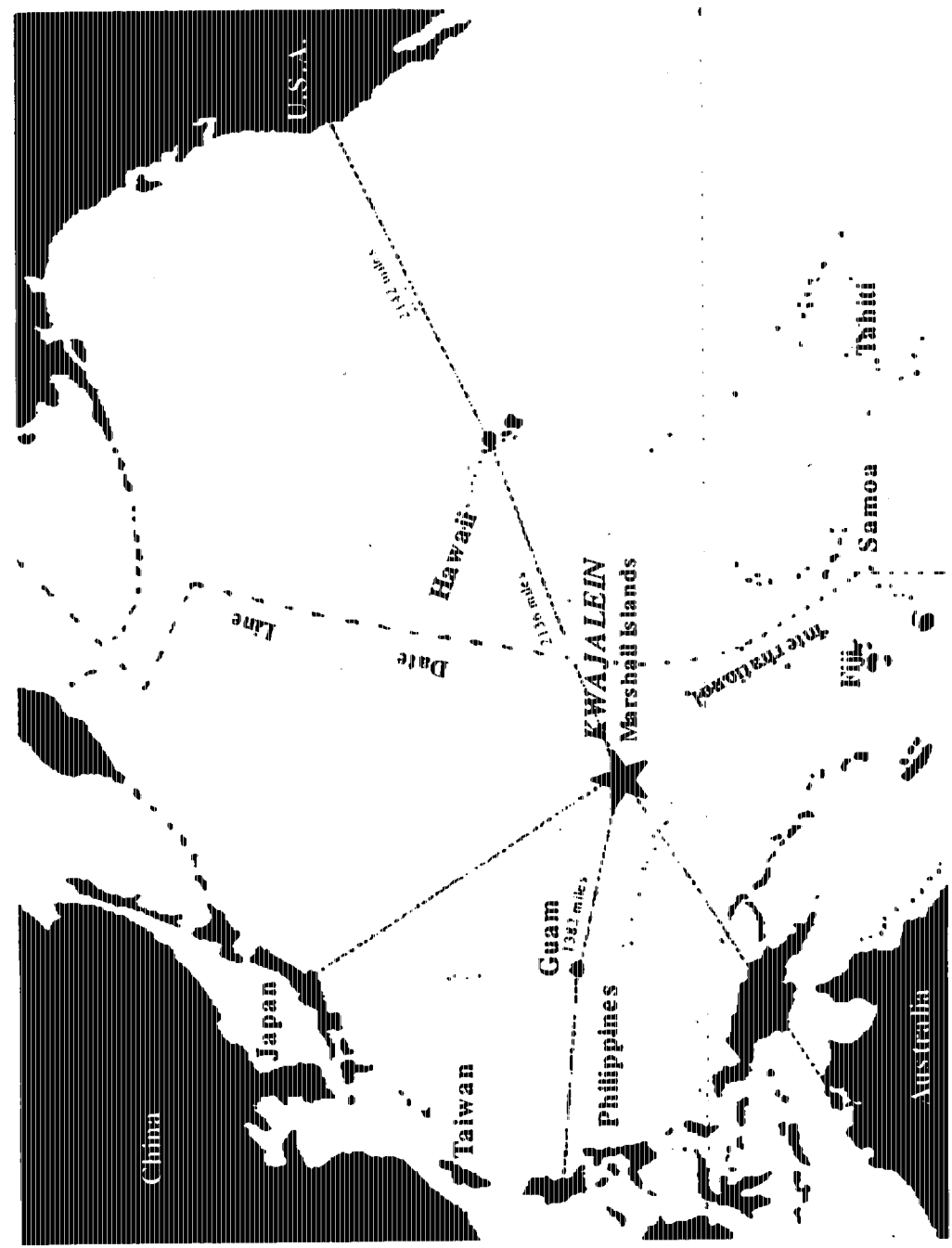
The Future

Although this program was initiated by the Ministry of Education for its own staff, future plans might include a program sponsored by the Public Service Ministry so that participants from several ministries could participate. In addition, the experience we gained in developing this program will help us in providing the same kinds of opportunities to people in other countries.



U.S. Army
SMDC
Space and Missile Defense Command

Kawajalein Missile Range An Enduring Partnership



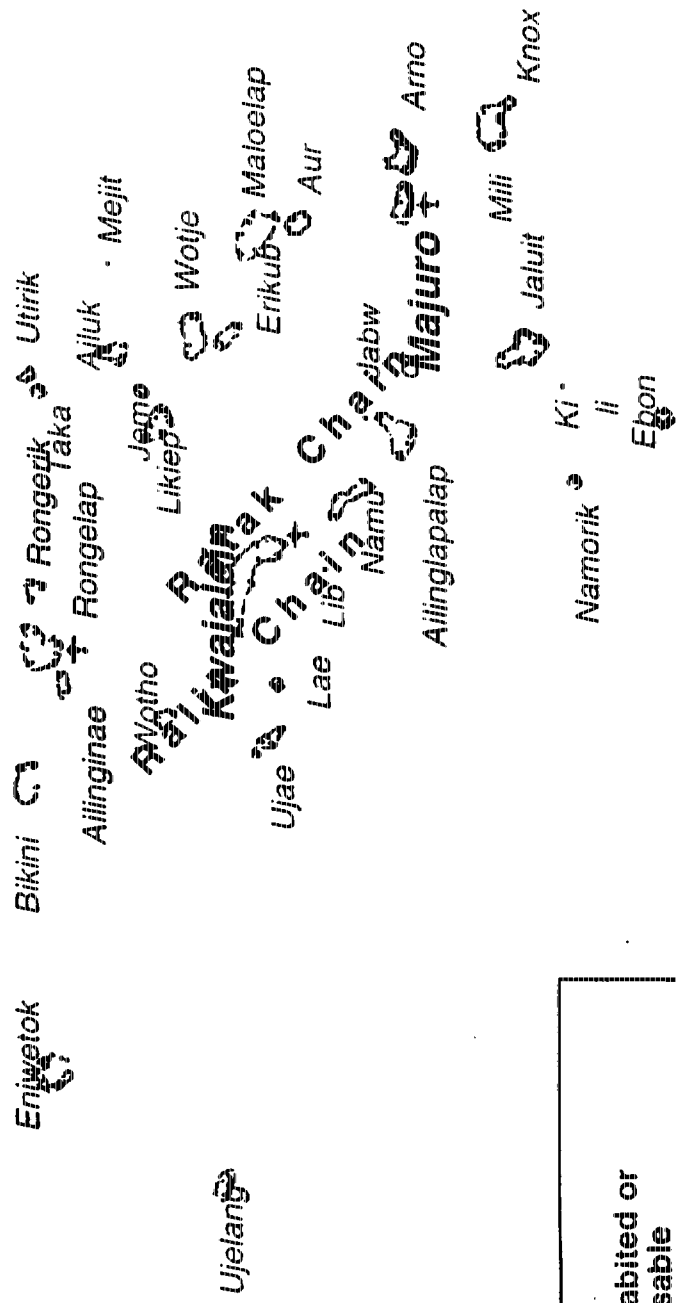
SMDC



Marshall Islands

9 Taongi

• Bikar



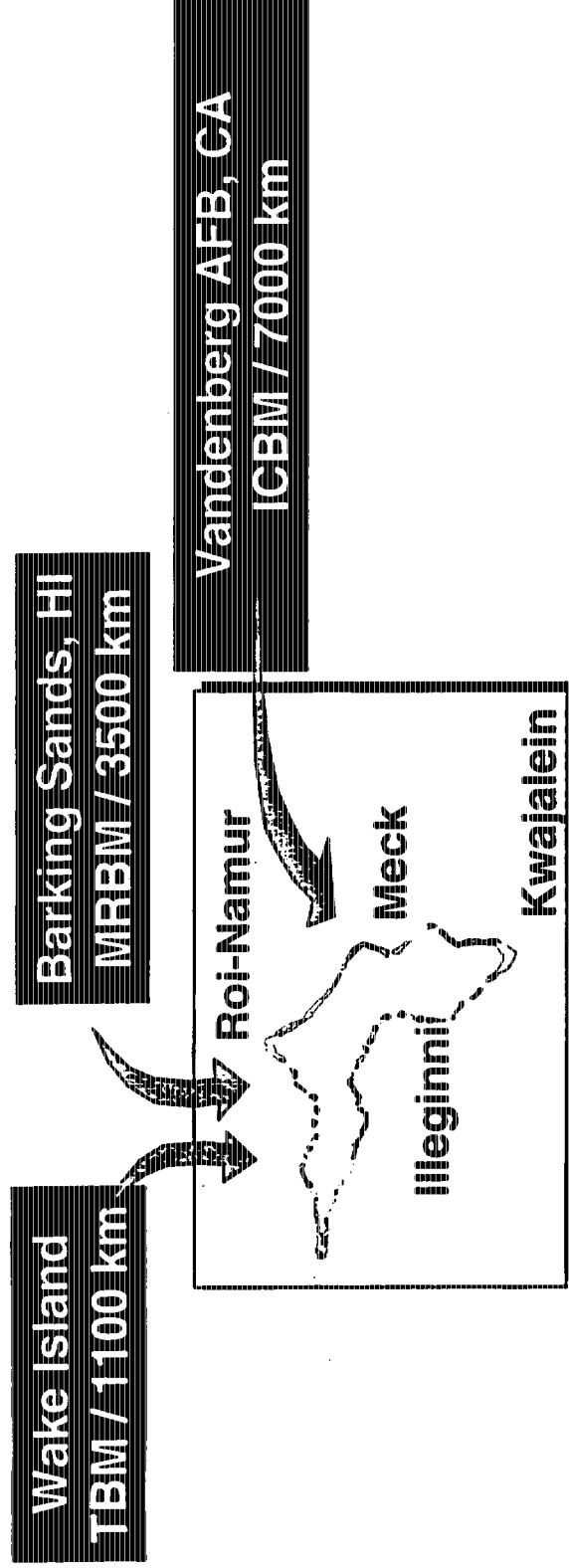
Key:

Inhabited or Accessible

Uninhabited/Difficult Access



USAKA's Unique Location



- All classes of ballistic missiles
- All options for missile impact and recovery
- World's largest atoll allows sensor dispersion
- Unsurpassed suite of range sensors
- Only site for equatorial space tracking of Asian launches

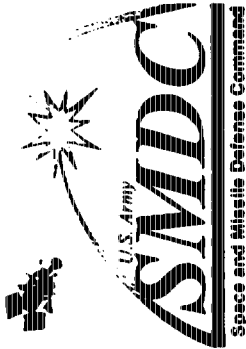


KMR Capabilities

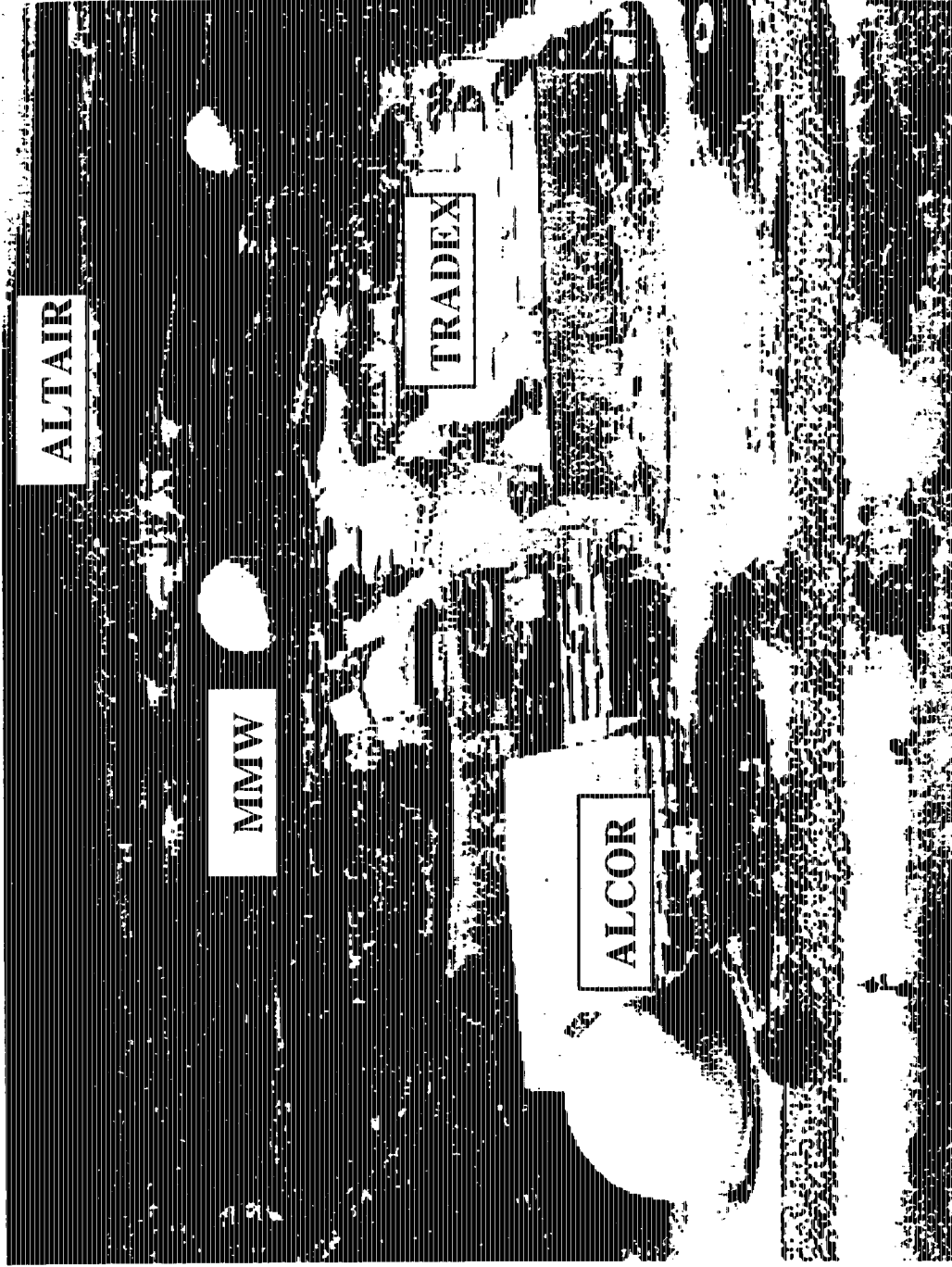
- Acquisition of multiple targets at horizon break
- Precision metrics
- Multi-frequency data yields complete “end game” analysis
- Lethality/kill assessment (size, count, dispersion)
- High accuracy miss-distance measurement
- Truth source for TMD systems

SMDC



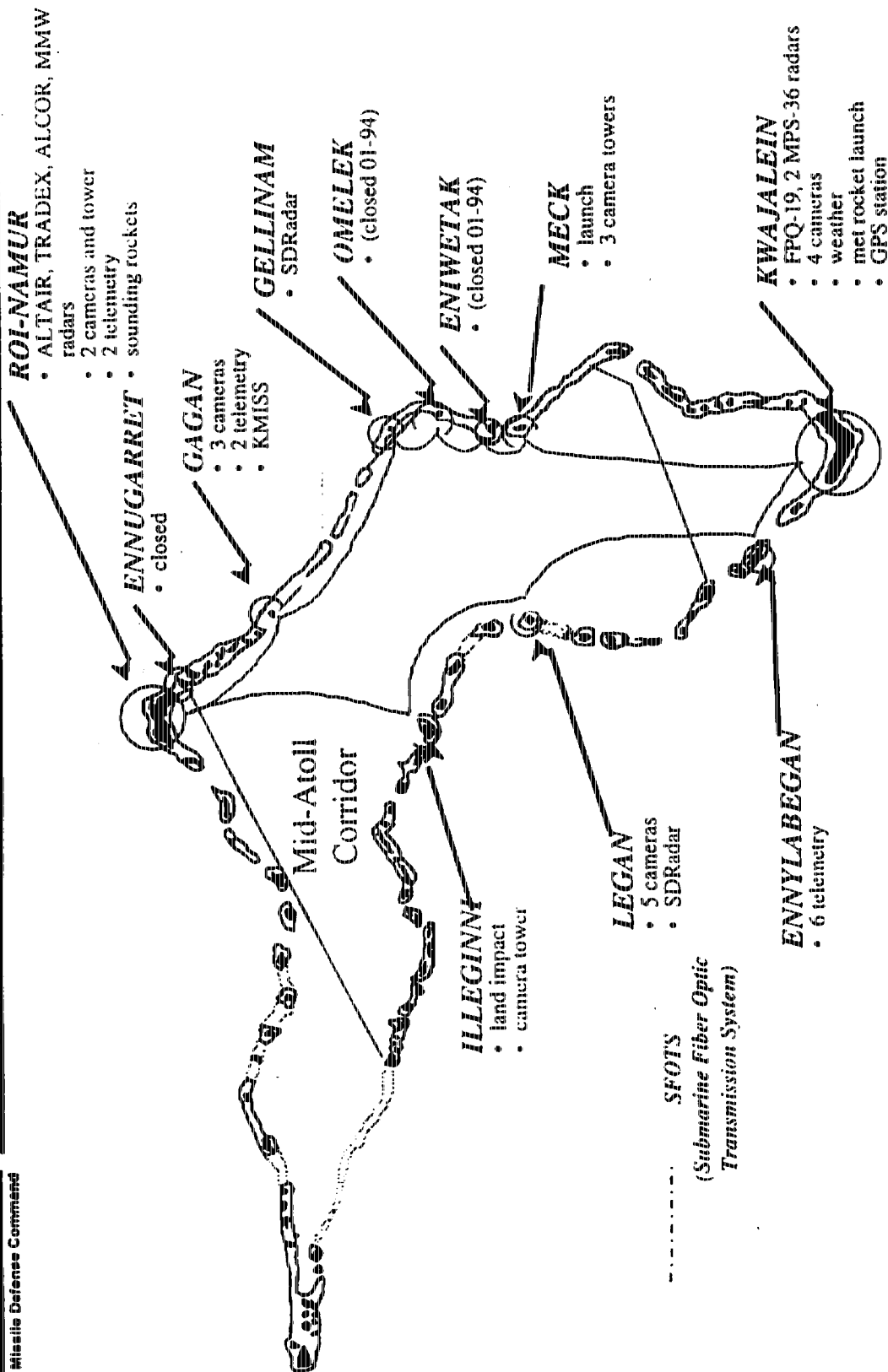


Roi-Namur Radars



SMDC 7777

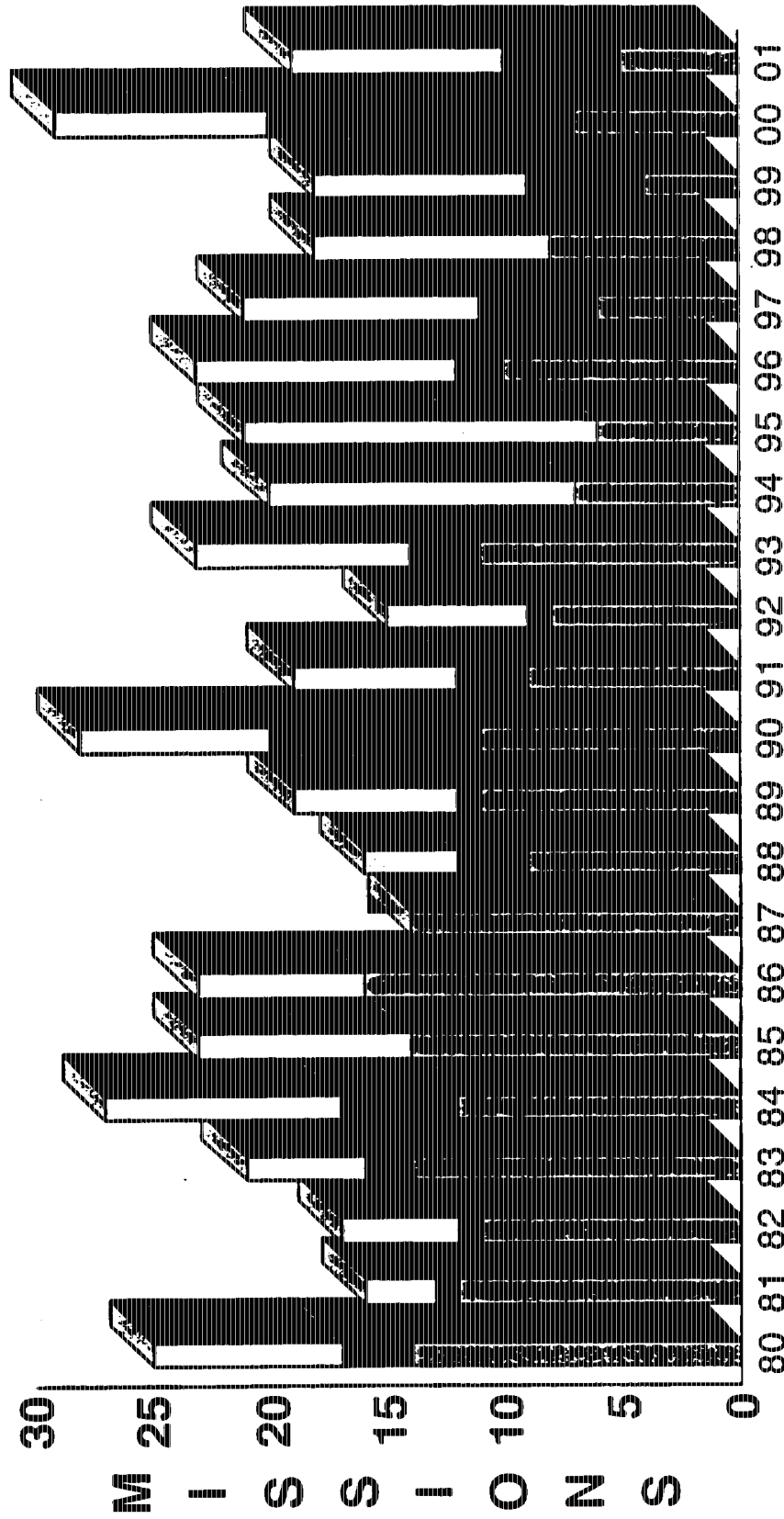
Range Infrastructure





Kwajalein Missile Range Mission Summary

STRATEGIC THEATER SPACE



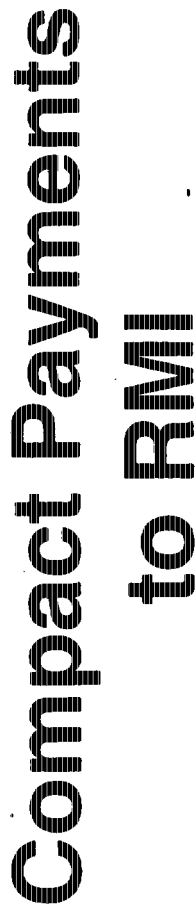
Fiscal Year

SMDC



Compact Of Free Association

- Signed in 1986.
- U.S. Has Full Defense Authority and Responsibility.
- Current USAKA Lease for 15 Years Ends in 2001.
- Renegotiation for an Additional 15-Year Compact Starting 1999.
- Support Sovereignty of Marshall Islands Nation through Elected Political Leaders.
- Provide the RMI with Funds for Government Operation.
- Support Economic Development Initiatives when Possible.



* Excludes Nuclear Claims Settlement (Section 177) and Bikini Resettlement



USAKA International Responsibilities

- Compact of Free Association with RMI -- 1986.
 - U.S. Has Full Defense Authority/Responsibility.
 - USAKA Lease for 15 Years with a 15-Year Option.
 - Compact up for Review/Renewal in 2001.
- Income to RMI.
 - 2nd Largest Employer in RMI (Approximately 1200 Employees --\$14M/Year).
 - \$12M/Year Lease.
 - \$2M/Year Income Tax from U.S. Contract Employees.
- CINCPAC Representative to RMI.

SMDC

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- SMDC** ~~7447~~



USAKA/RMI MOA

- Emergency Medical Evacuation, Referral, and Supplies.
 - Water Deliveries.
 - Subsistence Supplies/Mail to Enniburr Island.
 - Electricity to South Village on Ennylabegan (Carlos).
 - Search and Rescue.
 - Office Space, Housing, and Maintenance of RMI Vehicles.
 - Transportation on USAKA Aircraft.
 - Participation in Special Services Sports Activities.
 - Provision for Marshallese Children to Attend USAKA School.
- Current Status
- MOA Now in Force under SSDC/RMI Review and Mutual revision in FY 97.



RMI Demographics

RMI

Population - as of
Jul 95 -- 56,157 (est)

Population Growth
Rate 5.7% (UN
estimate)

average age <15+

Ebeye

12,500 people
14/household (650 sf)

Population

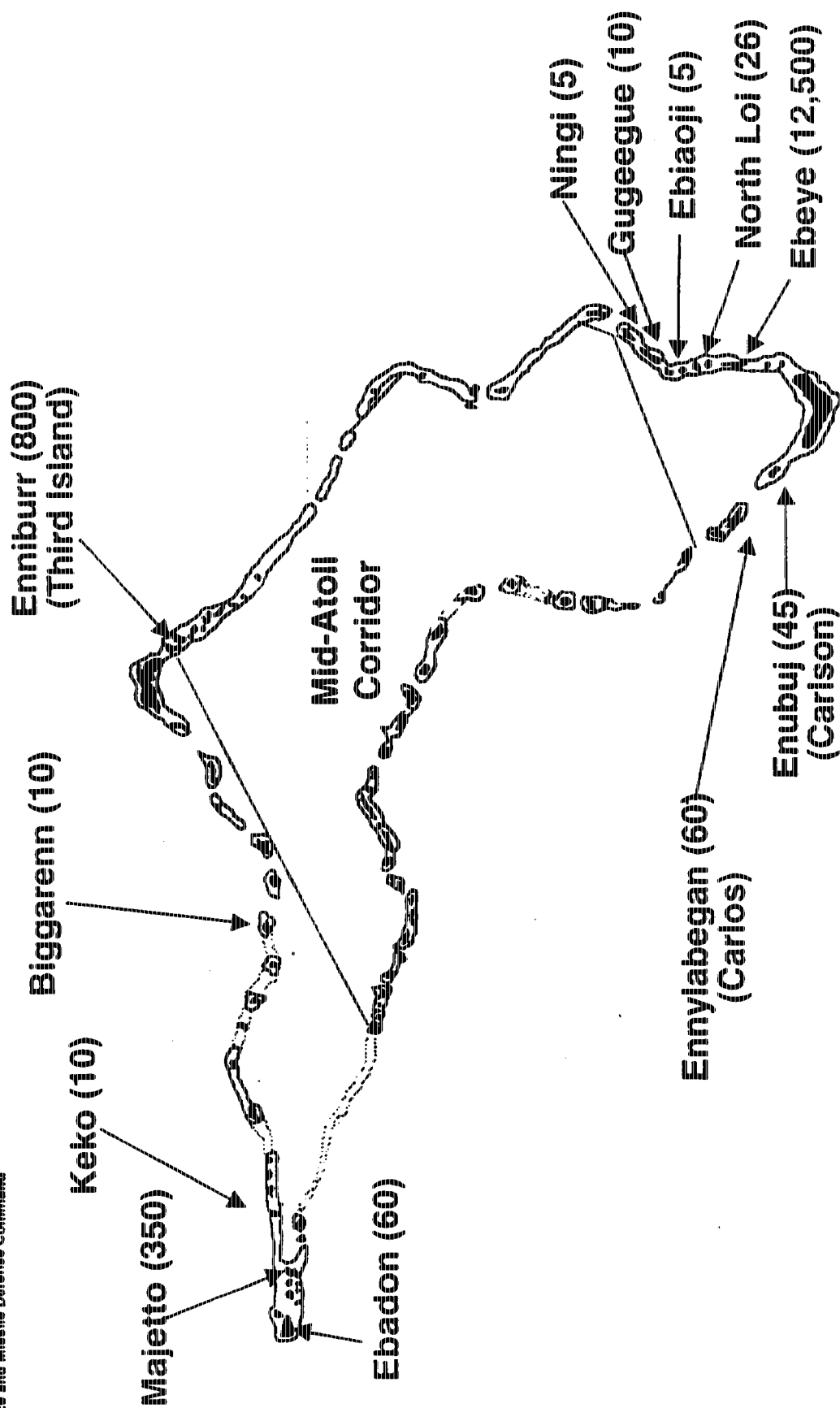
1952	30
1983	7,500
1988	8,500
1996	~12,500
2000	~21,000

(USAKA Projection)

SMDC



Marshallese Inhabited Islands



SMDC

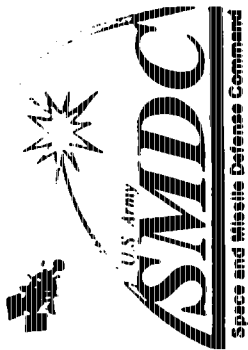


Ebeye

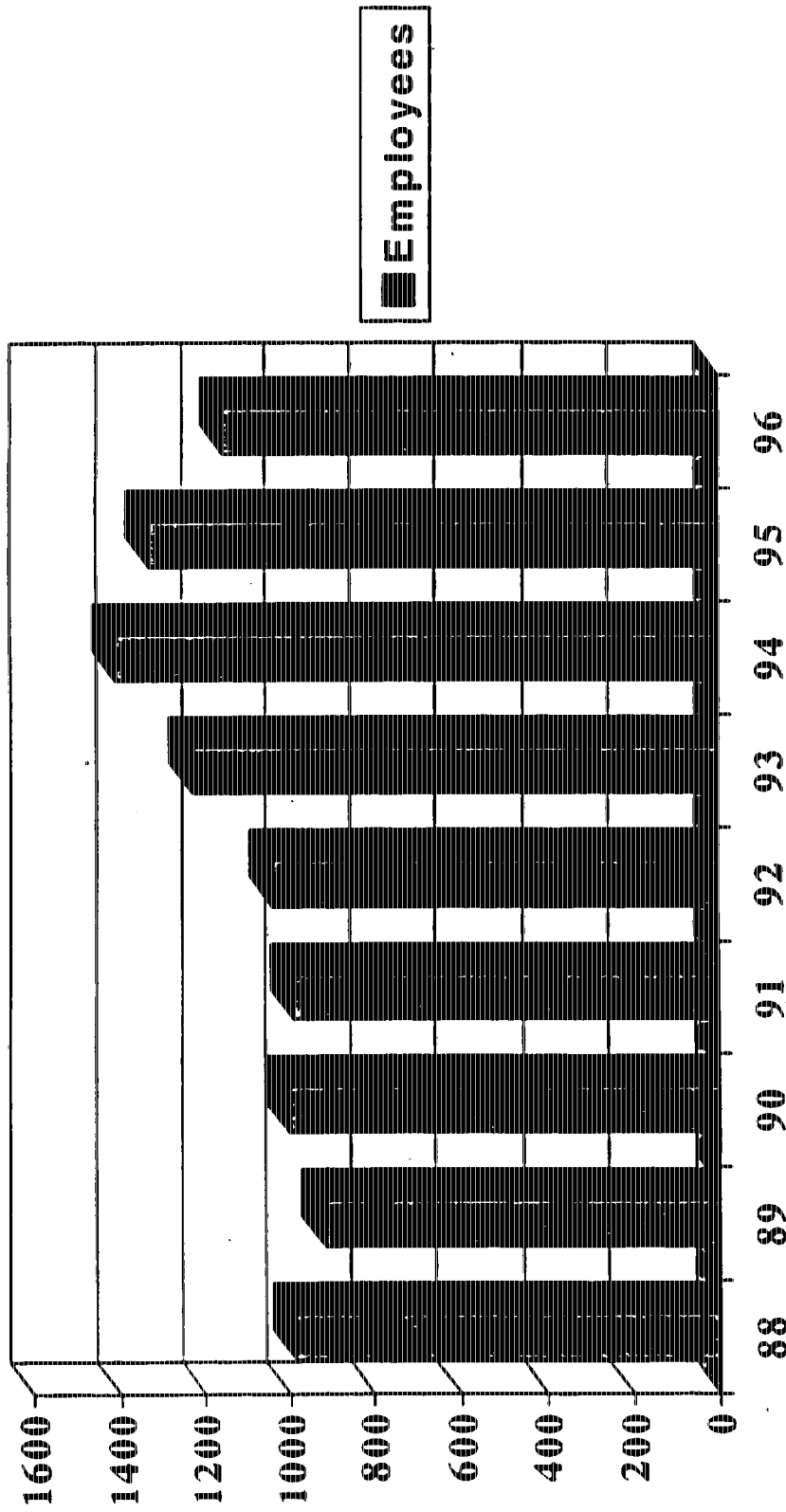


SWD

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Marshallese Employees USAKA 1988 - 1996



* Loss of Construction work in FY 1998 may effect RMI workers adversely.

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Space and Missile Defense Command

Marshallese Employed at USAKA

(as of 1 Nov 96)

<u>Company</u>	<u># Employees</u>	<u>Gross</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Range Systems Engineering (RSE)	897	\$11,817,676
Integrated Range Engineering (IRE)	6	101,946
Coastal International Security (CIS)	26	403,910
Zachry	29	355,732
Wallace O'Connor	22	235,664
J.A. Jones	18	228,800
Job Corps	<u>36</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Bank of Guam	3	43,108
Domestics	117	737,568
TOTALS	1,154	\$13,959,404

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CRC

Community Relations Council

- Council Mandated by the Compact of Free Association.
- Council Meets Monthly on USAKA or Ebeye.
- Council Consists of Representatives from USAKA and RMI
 - Commander
 - RMI Chief Secretary
 - Deputy
 - RMI Rep to Kwajalein Atoll
 - Provost Marshal
 - Kwajalein Atoll Mayor
 - Legal Officer
 - Nitijela Rep. (Senator)
 - External Affairs Officer
 - Alap Rep. (landowner)
 - Medical Specialist
 - Kwaj. Atoll Devel. Auth. Rep.
 - Host Nation Specialist
 - Enniburr Representative
 - Iroij Representative
- Council Deals with Issues Local to Kwajalein Atoll
 - Law Enforcement
 - Employment
 - Access to USAKA
 - Education
 - Transportation
 - Emergency Requests
 - Health/Medical
 - Excess Property
 - Mission Information

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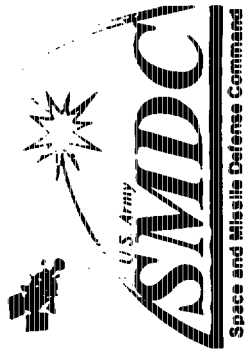


Joint Sub-Committees

- Joint Area Law Enforcement Committee:
 - Training in Self-Defense Methods.
 - Drug Surveillance Training.
 - Pacific Region Meetings for Law Enforcement Officers.
 - Fire Fighter Training.
- Joint Education and Training Committee:
 - Teacher Training/Workshops.
 - Educational Supplies.
 - Volunteer Work.
 - Field Trips.

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Joint Sub-Committees

- Joint Health and Medical Committee:
 - Service to Medical Equipment.
 - Medical Referrals.
 - Volunteer Work.
 - Tripler Visitation.
- Joint EPA/HPO Committee:
 - Aid Enforcement of Binding Laws and Regulations in Kwajalein Atoll Through Mutual Efforts.
 - Develop Mutually Beneficial Environmental Projects.
 - Assist KALGOV in Implementing Dive Permit Issuance Regulation in Kwajalein Atoll.

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Cross-Cultural Exchanges

- Kemem (1st Birthday Celebration)
- Graduations
- Weddings
- Ilomej (wake)
- Building Dedications
- Women's Club Activities

Weaving Classes

Church Celebrations

Choral Performances

Cultural Exchanges

- Marshallese Language/Culture Classes

- Objective - TO CREATE A RESERVOIR OF GOODWILL AT LOCAL & NATIONAL LEVELS.

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Benefits to US

- Continued access to Kwajalein Atoll
- Protection of over \$4B facility investment
- Local hire labor source

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Space and Missile Defense Command

Benefits to RMI

Equipment sales/donations	-	Excess Government Property
- Medical, educational		
Humanitarian assistance	-	Medivac
- Emergency medical		
Marshalllese students in USAKA schools	-	46 -- 96-97 school year
Use of RMI National Telecommunications Authority (NTA)	-	On-going -- \$360,000/year
Life support to Enniburr	-	Water, fuel, retail
- Emergency medical		
Job Corps training	-	945 trained at USAKA
- 67 now employed at USAKA		
Volunteer Work	-	Mic Shop \$35,000/year
- Schools, hospital, library		
- Churches		
Pacific Island Medicine Program	-	Tripler Army Hospital
Youth and sports activities		

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